

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 AUGUST 1982

Lebanon

Israeli Position -- All obstacles to the PLO evacuation of Beirut have now been removed except for Israel's demand that the PLO return the captured Israeli pilot and the bodies of nine IDF soldiers, Jerusalem radio reported citing senior Israeli officials. The question of the pilot and the bodies is an absolute condition and the agreement could stand or fall on its implementation, the officials stressed. While expressing optimism that the evacuation will start soon, the officials warned that in light of an apparent hardening of the PLO position on some undisclosed points, Israel has not entirely ruled out use of the military option should the need arise. Regarding PLO demands that Israel release several hundred Palestinians in exchange for the captured Phantom pilot, an authoritative Israeli political source cited by Jerusalem radio early on 17 August emphasized that Israel rejects any deal with the PLO. The radio also noted that Israel is awaiting replies from U.S. envoy Philip Habib on unresolved issues in the agreement for the PLO evacuation, which is scheduled to begin 21 August. Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche arrived in Beirut on 16 August to be briefed on the results of Habib's talks with Lebanese leaders, according to Beirut radio.

Regarding a Syrian withdrawal from Beirut, HA'ARETZ reported that Israel has agreed to allow the Syrian brigade and commando battalion in the capital to leave with all their weapons, including tanks and artillery. The two Syrian-controlled Palestinian Liberation Army brigades, which are part of the Syrian Arab deterrent force, will be allowed to redeploy in the Al-Biqa' Valley or in another area under Syrian control. The agreement also stipulates that Syria will absorb some 2,600 "terrorists," HA'ARETZ added. The paper pointed out that under these arrangements the Syrians might be able to extricate from Beirut some of the heavy weapons left behind by the PLO and also might be able to station PLO "terrorists" from Beirut in the Al-Biqa' or Tripoli regions.

Beirut Situation, PLO Position -- After meeting with U.S. envoy Habib, who had returned from talks in Israel, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus expressed optimism that a solution to the crisis is near, according to statements carried by Voice of Lebanon radio.

A Western source cited by Jerusalem radio said the first group of PLO fighters will leave from Beirut port to Larnaca, Cyprus. Control of the port will be transferred to the Lebanese Army before the evacuation, and as the "terrorists" reach the port, the French advance unit will land.

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio spoke of optimism about a solution but expressed fear of an Israeli "surprise" at the last minute such as an attack on Palestinian camps in north Lebanon or "aggression" in the Al-Biqa'. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told French television that he is ready to leave Lebanon "very quickly," Paris radio observed. Speaking to KUNA, PLO Executive Committee spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar stressed that the PLO evacuation from Beirut does not mean a change in attitude toward the Palestinian issue and will not diminish Palestinian unity. He alleged that the United States has started to implement the "second link" in a Middle East settlement -- the Jordanian-Palestinian link -- within the camp David accords, and that the U.S. threatens the independence of Arab countries. He said the PLO rejects U.S. attempts to turn Arabs into mediators in the conflict with Israel and he criticized the "silence" of Arab countries regarding Lebanon.

Syrian Position, Talks With Phalangists -- Syrian forces in Lebanon are a "legitimate presence" and they will not withdraw unless the reason and justification for their presence is eliminated, a Damascus radio commentary stressed. The issue of Syrian forces in Lebanon concerns only Lebanon, Syria and the Arabs, and these forces have proved they can stand up to the Israeli military, the commentary insisted. Israel has not achieved its objectives in the invasion, the radio said, and the PLO has become stronger and more influential in the world.

A Phalangist delegation met with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus on 16 August, Monte Carlo radio reported, adding that informed sources said the "frank and positive" talks dealt with the Lebanese situation and the presidential elections.

Presidential Elections -- Israeli forces have agreed to withdraw from the Mansur Palace area to facilitate the upcoming presidential elections, sources cited by Voice of Lebanon radio reported. According to AFP, Lebanon has asked France, Britain and the FRG to send observers to assist in the elections. Meanwhile, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt said after a ministerial meeting that the Chamber of Deputies should postpone its election session until an internal Lebanese settlement is reached, Beirut radio reported.

Tunisia on PLO Reception -- The Tunisian committee in charge of organizing the reception of 1,000 PLO fighters met to discuss preparations, an authorized source cited by TAP revealed.

Status of Cease-Fire -- The "terrorists" twice violated the cease-fire in both Beirut and eastern Lebanon, the IDF spokesman announced in statements reported by IDF and Jerusalem radios. While the IDF responded in the eastern sector, it did not return fire in Beirut. The Voice of Palestine noted that Israeli planes overflew the capital on 16 and 17 August. Meanwhile, the Israelis, Syrians and Palestinians reinforced their positions in the Al-Biqa' Valley, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

Autonomy Talks; Egyptian-Israeli Relations

Egypt has informed the United States that it will not consider resuming the autonomy talks before Israel's complete withdrawal from Lebanon and the restoration of full Lebanese sovereignty, MENA reported. If and when Egypt considers resuming the talks it will require a change in the procedure, which has so far proved fruitless, MENA added. The concepts of autonomy should be defined during the transition period preceding the exercise of self-determination, because if the talks are held on the basis of Israel's interpretations of autonomy, the Camp David accords will be divested of their real meaning.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said normal relations between Egypt and Israel have been frozen because of the Israeli "aggression" against Lebanon and the Palestinians, the London paper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

A source at the Arab League Secretariat in Tunis said 17 states have agreed to resume the Fes Arab summit on 6 September and the Arab foreign ministers meeting will be held on 28 August, KUNA reported. The agenda of the foreign ministers meeting includes the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq war and Arab relations, according to another KUNA report.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces fired on Iraqi positions across the Shatt al-'Arab killing 57 Iraqi troops, Tehran radio reported citing IRNA. An Iraqi military communique carried by Baghdad radio claimed that 21 Iranians were killed in the northern battle sector, and 4 were killed in the Basra area.

Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told newsmen in New Delhi that Iranian forces would break any Iraqi blockade of Khark Island and that Iran may have to "intensify" the war, AFP reported.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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ARAB STATES AGREE TO RESUME FES SUMMIT

LD161718 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1536 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Excerpts] Tunis, 16 Aug (KUNA) -- An authorized source at the Arab League secretariat said here this afternoon that to date 17 Arab states have agreed to the resumption of the Fes Arab summit on 6 September. The source, who did not want his name mentioned, told KUNA the secretariat sent the permanent member countries an official memorandum this afternoon that fixed 28 and 29 August as the dates for the meeting of Arab foreign ministers and 6 September as the date for the resumption of the Fes summit conference suspended last 25 November only a few hours after its opening. The source said the city of Mohammadia near the Moroccan capital will be the place for the foreign ministers meeting and the summit instead of historic Fes known for its hot weather in the summer.

The source added that the Arab countries that have agreed to the resumption of the Fes summit conference are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, the YAR, the PDRY, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, the PLO, Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Djibouti and Morocco. He said it is highly possible that Lebanon will announce its agreement to attend both meetings within a few days.

Three Arab countries -- Libya, Algeria and Mauritania -- still oppose the resumption of the Fes summit and prefer a new summit in its place in Tunis, the seat of the Arab League. The Moroccan ambassador to Tunisia, who is also his country's permanent representative at the Arab League, said earlier: "The coming summit is not an extraordinary one; therefore its agenda is open and any Arab country can ask for any subject to be put on it."

KUNA Gives Agenda

LD161156 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1102 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Excerpt] Tunis, 16 Aug (KUNA) -- The Arab League General Secretariat has distributed the agenda of the forthcoming Arab foreign minister meeting which includes six main topics:

- The Zionist aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples
- The Iraq-Iran war
- Arab relations
- The Ethiopian aggression against Somalia
- The amendments to the league's charter and improvements of its systems
- The resolutions adopted by the foreign ministers at their meeting in Fes last November

The Moroccan ambassador to Tunisia and permanent representative to the Arab League said: "The forthcoming summit is not an emergency or extraordinary one; therefore, its agenda is considered open and each country could suggest the inclusion of any subject it wishes."

Informed sources at the Arab League General Secretariat expected the Arab summit will finish before 10 September in order to enable the Arab foreign ministers or their representatives to prepare for the normal session of the league's Council due to be held 13-15 September.

'ARAFAT: 'READY TO LEAVE LEBANON VERY QUICKLY'

LD162032 Paris Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] We have just heard that in an interview on TF-1 television this evening, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said he is, and I quote, ready to leave Lebanon very quickly.

PFLP'S ABU SHARIF ON BEIRUT EVACUATION DECISION

JN161603 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1545 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Beirut, 16 Aug (SANA) -- Bassam Abu Sharif, one of the PLO commanders, has stated that the PLO command had decided to pull its fighters out of Beirut. Citing Abu Sharif, Beirut radio said this PLO decision comes in order to save Beirut and its residents more destruction in accordance with the desire of its citizens who have been used by Israel to place pressures on the PLO.

AMMAN PLO OFFICE DENIES RUMORS ON SALAH KHALAF

JN170806 Amman AD-Dustur in Arabic 17 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] Amman -- AD-DUSTUR -- Jordan's PLO office director Najib al-Ahmad has announced he has received a cable from the PLO command in Beirut denying rumors circulated by Israeli radio on the wounding of Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, during the savage raids launched by Israel against Beirut last week.

Al-Ahmad said that by circulating such rumors Israel aims at shattering the morale of the steadfast fighters. He added that such acts will only increase their steadfastness and determination to fight and foil all the Zionist enemy's aims and schemes.

PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL ON PLAN TO KILL 'ARAFAT

GF161728 Doha QNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Amman, 16 Aug (QNA) -- A Palestinian official said in Amman today that the PLO leadership has received warnings from some Arab and foreign countries saying Israeli forces will carry out a surprise attack aimed at killing Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and other prominent PLO leaders.

In a statement to a QNA correspondent in Amman, the official said the information received by the PLO leadership reports the Israeli leadership intends to implement its plan because it believes the presence of 'Arafat and some senior commanders in Beirut is one of the main factors helping to maintain the steadfastness of the fighters in Beirut and leading towards successful political negotiations as well as raising the PLO's stature internationally by focusing on the dispute in the region and affirming that there cannot be stability in the region without a just solution to the Palestinian question under the leadership of the PLO.

PLO'S ABU MAYZAR GRANTS STATEMENT TO KUNA

LD161700 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1432 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Damascus, 16 Aug (KUNA) An official Palestinian spokesman accused the United States today of implementing what he referred to as the second link of the American settlement of the Middle East crisis within the framework of the American-Egyptian-Israeli Camp David agreements. 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO Executive Committee official spokesman, told KUNA, "The United States has begun working and preparing for the implementation of the second link of the American settlement of the Middle East crisis, which is the Palestinian-Jordanian link."

Abu Mayzar confirmed that, "Changing the position of the Palestinian Resistance from Beirut to Damascus and other Arab countries does not mean a change of attitude toward the firm rights of the Palestinian People." He also said: "The PLO and its leadership will in the future be more interested in maintaining Palestinian national unity and the struggle of the Palestinian Revolution."

Concerning the PLO attitude toward holding an Arab summit or resuming the Fes summit he said: "We in the PLO have never rejected the formula of joint Arab action on the basis of massing Arab capabilities in the battle against the Zionist enemy and those who stand with it. We were not the ones to postpone the Fes summit. King Hassan II did when he announced he was suspending the summit because matters had not ripened. Since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon we have been calling for the convening of an Arab meeting at any level, but all our efforts met no response." He added: "Today we see Moroccan Foreign Minister Boucetta seeking the resumption of the Fes summit. He met with Chairman of the Palestine National Council Khalid al-Fahum who informed him the PLO has called for an Arab meeting to confront the situation in Lebanon and its invasion by Israel. This is what the PLO can discuss at this stage because an important part of the Palestinian leadership, led by the chairman and general commander, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] are besieged in Beirut; therefore, we are unable to give our approval without the opinion of our brothers and an end of the abnormal conditions surrounding them."

Abu Mayzar criticized the silence of the Arab countries as well as their failure to confront the continuing Israeli invasion. He said: "It is the right of the Arab citizen today to ask: Why have the Arabs kept quiet during the last 2 months? Why haven't the Arabs met to confront the Israeli invasion of Lebanon? At any rate, we in the PLO support any joint Arab action to confront the Zionist enemy and its invasion of Lebanon. We support any joint Arab action to confront the attempt to liquidate the Palestine cause. The attitudes of the PLO toward the issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict remain firm and have been expressed by the resolutions of the Palestine National Council."

Abu Mayzar continued: "Joint Arab action for the sake of Palestine increases the Arabs' commitment to the Palestine cause and does not transform them into mediators in the Arab-Israeli conflict. We understand foreigners, not Arabs, volunteering initiatives and mediation. The U.S. attempt to transform the Arabs from parties to the conflict into mediators in the conflict is unacceptable and is rejected by the PLO. The invasion of Lebanon should have put an end to the change in the thinking of those who believe the enemy can understand a language other than force. The Camp David process, as exposed by the events in Lebanon, only means submission of the Arab will to the enemy and remaining silent regarding its arrogance."

On the consequences of the transfer of the Palestinian Resistance from Beirut to Damascus and other Arab countries, Abu Mayzar said: "The Palestinian people have a cause and national rights that constitute a continuing challenge to anyone who tries to ignore the Palestinian reality inside and outside the region. The PLO has moved in the past from Cairo to Damascus, but the change of location does not mean a change in attitude toward the rights of the Palestinian people. Therefore, the PLO and its leadership will be extremely interested in maintaining Palestinian national unity and continuing the revolutionary struggle for the achievement of the firm rights of the Palestinian people, which have been acknowledged by the world and confirmed by the United Nations. The present experience of the war in Lebanon is without doubt full of lessons we must learn. Meanwhile, we await developments as we continuously expect developments and surprises. It is perhaps premature to say more on this matter."

Concerning PLO expectations regarding the reported implementation of the U.S. political plan for the Middle East when the so-called Beirut problem is solved, Abu Mayzar said: "The PLO, in view of its long experience, expects nothing positive from U.S. policy in the Middle East because the United States sees the Middle East through Israel and its expansionist designs. The Camp David accords are a clear expression of the dimensions of American strategy in the Middle East: subduing the Arab will, securing Israel's superiority over the Arabs, making the Arabs believe they have a common interest with their enemy, Israel, and linking the region to what it calls a strategic link with the United States and Israel."

He added: "We from the United States expect more attempts to liquidate the Palestinian cause in the interest of the Zionist enemy and a growing desire to dominate the Arab region, expropriate the Arab peoples' gains and threaten the independence of Arab peoples' gains and threaten the independence of Arab countries. We have no illusions concerning U.S. policy because the Arab attitude toward America has not changed. We have no reason to expect an American change of attitude toward the Arabs and their causes. We see that despite U.S. support for our enemy, Israel, U.S. interests are secure and its political, military and commercial relations are expanding to the extent that some Americans now believe an Arab reaction to their policies does not exist. As a result, the Arabs are not taken into consideration."

He concluded: "What we can say in this context in light of our awareness of the objectives of the invasion of Lebanon and the desperate attempts to liquidate the PLO is that the United States has stated preparations for the second link of a Middle East settlement within the Camp David framework, the Jordanian-Palestinian link, which up to now the United States has failed to implement. The United States is trying today to exploit the invasion of Lebanon to implement this stage."

DFLP'S HAWATIMAH GRANTS INTERVIEW TO APS

LD161146 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Algiers, 16 Aug (APS) -- Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], stressed in an exclusive interview with APS and ALGERIE-ACTUALITES weekly magazine that what is happening in Beirut is the biggest genocide operation since the Nazi destruction, and that this killing is continuing despite the fact that the Palestinian Revolution has provided all necessary facilities to reach an acceptable solution to the crisis created by the Israeli occupation in order to save Beirut more destruction and killing. Hawatimah revealed the Zionist enemy maneuvers to hinder all solutions reached with the Lebanese Government, saying: "The Palestinian Resistance confirmed its agreement with the resolutions of the six-member Arab committee in Jidda, entered into detailed negotiations with the Lebanese Government to implement the Jidda resolutions and reached a detailed agreement to end the current military confrontation in Beirut." However, the Israeli enemy, as Hawatimah said, continued its provocations and military operations in a persistent attempt to prevent an acceptable solution from being reached and to keep Beirut as a hostage for military and political blackmail with the collusion and blessing of the American administration, which is seeking the same objectives in the Lebanese arena.

Hawatimah recalled the conditions stipulated by the Palestinian Resistance "to reach an honorable solution" in accordance with the Jidda resolutions that are "the simultaneous deployment of international observers to ensure the cease-fire, the gathering and evacuation of the Resistance from Beirut with guaranteed safe conduct by land along the Beirut-Damascus highway and the safety of the refugee camps of the sons of the Palestinian people under the supervision of the international force and the flag of the United Nations."

Hawatimah noted in his interview that: "The silent and defeatist Arab situation is encouraging Israeli aggressiveness." He pointed out that "now, after more than 2 months since the start of the fascist barbaric Zionist invasion of Lebanon, no stance has emerged from the Arab countries nor have any tangible serious measures to deter the aggressors, defeat the occupation and help the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples despite the repeated calls by the Resistance to these countries to shoulder their responsibilities, respect their peoples and stop their disregard of the rivers of blood of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples."

He added: "What the Arab countries, which have all the objective factors for victory over the invaders, lack is the political decision to use their various capabilities such as thousands of aircraft, tanks and hundreds of thousands of fighters with millions of people in addition to the abundant oil and wide area."

Answering a question on the attitude toward UN Security Council Resolution 242, Hawatimah commented: "The essence of this resolution deals with the consequences of June 1967, while ignoring the Palestinian national question, the existence of the Palestinian people, their right to self-determination on their soil and their right to return to their homeland." He renewed the DFLP's and the Palestinian Revolution's rejectionist stand toward this resolution because it does not concern our people, as he put it, does not secure their rights, and cannot be considered sufficient basis to resolve the region's problems, particularly the national problem of the Palestinian people.

Answering a question regarding the prospects of the near future, the DFLP secretary general stressed that the total American disregard for the collective Arab resolutions, international public opinion, its ally Europe, and its maneuvers at the UN Security Council confirm that America supports the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and its aims. It sees in it a big help to impose its complete hegemony over the region, to tighten its grip on its wealth and to strike at the Arab liberation movement for many years. It also seeks to transform the PLO into a hollow organization obedient and ready to be drawn into Camp David on the basis of the autonomy plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip that firmly establishes the Israeli occupation and Greater Israel plan.

'ARAFAT SENDS MESSAGE TO SUDAN'S NUMAYRI

JN161135 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Aug (SUNA) -- President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has received a message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in which he thanked the president on behalf of the PLO, its fighters and the Palestinian people for offering to receive 600 Palestinian Revolution fighters. Following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri,

May God preserve you. A jihad greeting from proud besieged Beirut which is facing the Israeli and American might through air, sea and land attacks and remains steadfast, firm and lofty. I extend to Your Excellency Brother President Numayri best wishes and many thanks for your message in which you declared fraternal Sudan's readiness to receive 600 brother fighters whose evacuation from Beirut has been decided upon according to the agreement reached between the PLO and the Lebanese authority within the framework of the Jidda conference and the Security Council resolutions.

I was deeply moved by your generous gesture that brought to mind your stand during the bombing of Amman in 1970.

In the name of the PLO, the brother mujahidin and the Palestinian people I thank you for this stand and hope we can work in the future for the good of our Arab nation which stands at a crucial crossroad in the face of great events and the Israeli aggression that receives unlimited backing from America.

Finally, I extend to you and to the fraternal Sudanese people my greetings, love and appreciation. It is a revolution until victory!

HABIB CHATTI ON ISLAMIC MINISTERS CONFERENCE

LD160958 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, left Tunis tonight for Niamey, capital of Niger, which hosts from 20-27 August the 13th conference of Islamic foreign ministers.

He said in a statement that among the most important issues on the agenda of this annual ministerial meeting are the situation in Lebanon and the Zionist dangers manifested by Israel's invasion of Lebanon. He added that the conference will discuss in particular the Middle East problem as a whole. He expressed hope that it will draw lessons from the Lebanese ordeal and the inability of the Arabs and Muslims to deter Israel and how to make its allies fear for the future of their relations with the Arab and Islamic world. He also voiced hope that the Arab and Islamic nation will understand the dimensions of the Israeli plan that seeks to extend to others what it has started in Beirut and to (?impose an Israeli peace). He said the Palestinian people have won the battle for Beirut as they have been able to demonstrate: first, the will of the people to live and their ability to fight and stand fast; second, to expose Israel's real nature, which is similar to nazism and fascism and which negates the Israeli claim that it is a victim. He said the time is now suitable for a serious action by the Arabs and Muslims in unison to bring the Palestinian problem to its final stage: the establishment of an independent Palestinian state led by the PLO.

In conclusion, he urged the Arabs and Muslims to embark on serious work at a time when the whole world appreciates the struggle of the Palestinian people, supports its rights, condemns the Israeli criminal behavior and works to halt the (?massacre). He said such an opportunity will never again present itself and to waste it will make the Zionist entity stronger than at any time before and the Arab-Islamic nations even weaker.

KUWAITDEPUTY PREMIER MAKES STATEMENT ON LEBANON

LD161000 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Aug (KUNA) -- In a statement published here today, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and minister of information, warned that Israel will tighten its grip on the territory it occupies in Lebanon through the deepening of differences among the various Lebanese sects.

In the statement published by AL-ANBA, he said Israel "will do its utmost to deepen the differences among the various sects and groups in Lebanon in order to tighten its control over the territory it occupies."

Shaykh Sabah added that Israel will withdraw from Lebanon "no matter how long it takes" and thus the Lebanese ought to be aware, to deny the occupation forces any opportunity and to be vigilant regarding seditious objectives in order that they may return to coexistence with one another as in the past with all love and harmony, particularly once the cloud of occupation and oppression from which they are now suffering has been dispelled."

The paper said Shaykh Sabah was commenting on the sectarian incidents that occurred in Lebanon following the start of the Israeli occupation.

Shaykh Sabah said: "No society is devoid of some poor-spirited people; what matters is that most of the brothers in Lebanon are completely aware of the means the enemy is trying to use in order to destroy what remains of cohesion and harmony among the sons of one homeland."

STATE SUPPORTS NEW DELHI NONALIGNED SUMMIT

LD141340 Kuwait KUNA in English 1237 GMT 14 Aug 82

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 14 (KUNA) -- Kuwait Saturday supported an Iraqi proposal calling for the holding of the seventh non-aligned summit in New Delhi and hailed the Iraqi decision to shift the venue of the conference from Baghdad to the Indian capital.

Announcing this stand today, Kuwait's deputy premier and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah Al-Ahmad, said that his government also supports the Iraqi request to hold the meeting of the non-aligned foreign ministers in Baghdad on September 2.

Shayke Sabah said the ministers will finally decide the venue and date of the 7th summit, adding that there would be no need for the ministers to meet in Havana.

Iraq agreed to give up its insistence on hosting the 7th summit to preserve the unity of the movement in the face of an Iranian diplomatic campaign to rally support for the boycott of the conference if it was to be held in Baghdad.

The last summit held in Havana had decided that Iraq would host the 7th summit but disagreement plagued the movement due to the 23-month long Iraq-Iranian war.

MINISTER ON ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

LD151505 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1411 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Aug (KUNA) -- Kuwait today made it known it is very interested in having both Lebanon and the PLO attend the forthcoming meeting of Arab foreign ministers, thereby renewing its support for efforts being made to hold an Arab summit.

The Kuwaiti minister of state for Cabinet affairs and minister of public health, Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Awadi [words indistinct] weekly Cabinet meeting, that Kuwait is concerned about the presence of Lebanon and the PLO at the conference of foreign ministers, so there could be a universal Arab consensus on resolutions made at the summit.

He said the Council [of Ministers] debated Arab affairs in general and Lebanon in particular. He added that Kuwait supports Arab efforts directed at holding the summit as soon as possible so that Arab solidarity and unity may be achieved, particularly now.

Kuwait had welcomed an invitation from Morocco to resume the Arab summit at Fes which was adjourned only hours after its opening on 25 November. The invitation was issued by King of Morocco Hasan II.

Dr 'Awadi said the Moroccan foreign minister, M'hamed Boucetta, who is currently paying a round of visits to Arab countries with the aim of resuming the Fes summit, is due to arrive here tomorrow on a visit within the framework of his tour. He is seeking to secure agreement on a date for a meeting of Arab foreign ministers that will prepare for an Arab summit.

INTERIOR MINISTER CALLS FOR ARAB UNITY

LD140918 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0844 GMT 14 Aug 82

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 14 Aug (KUNA) -- In a statement published here today Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad as-Sabah called on all Arab leaders to adopt a unified attitude to confront the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and to create one Arab plan to confront all the dangers threatening the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti AL-MAJALIS, he stressed the importance of achieving Arab solidarity at this critical phase through which the Arab homeland is passing, and said this can be done through the proposed Arab summit conference. He expressed hope this conference will be held and said: We sincerely hope this summit will be held and that the Arab leaders will meet and be able to solve their differences in a manner that will unite the Arab world and eliminate all inter-Arab differences. He declared anew Kuwait's welcome for any effort to achieve this aim. He also expressed Kuwait's commitment to give all possible aid to secure the continuation of the Palestinian Revolution's leadership of the Palestinian people so that the latter can achieve their aim to return to their homeland and establish their independent state and determine their own destiny. Shaykh Nawwaf warned that the superpowers, the ambitious and those who hate and envy us are conspiring against the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula and are secretly and openly working to disturb the security and prosperity our peoples in this region enjoy. He said those forces are hatching evil conspiracies in an effort to arouse sedition and sow chaos, using various methods.

Shaykh Nawwaf reaffirmed that area states are capable of overcoming all dangers thanks to their cooperation and coordination in all security, political and economic spheres. He said: We will prevent all forces from achieving their base aims.

AL-QABAS ON U.S. BOYCOTT, DEMONSTRATION

LD170802 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0708 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 17 Aug (KUNA) -- For the second successive day, AL-QABAS has continued its appeal for the sons of the Arab nation to boycott the United States.

In addition to its leading article, the paper carried on its front page a five-column picture of citizens and residents angrily burning U.S. flags yesterday on the Al-Khalij beach near the water towers and the U.S. Embassy as a gesture of condemnation of the United States' role in helping, supporting and approving the Zionist aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

In its leading article, AL-QABAS said the immediate response for its appeal has one significant point: the crushed people are looking for a role to play and are awaiting those who will call on them to play it. The paper said it is illogical for the Palestinian Revolution to be subjected to siege and annihilation; for an Arab capital -- Beirut -- to be subjected to comprehensive destruction; and for the armies of a racist state -- Israel -- to march on an Arab state -- Lebanon -- and occupy half of its land while the armies of 21 Arab states look on and 150 million Arabs remain silent.

AL-QABAS hinted at the fact that the appeal to boycott U.S. goods and everything American may not be the solution that will compel Israel to withdraw or make the United States declare its bankruptcy. However, it is an appeal whose strength lies in the crystallization of a gigantic Arab current. It constitutes a moral pressure on the conscience of the American people who will in turn pressure their rulers to stop playing the shameful role that makes a superpower such as the United States a second star beside the Star of David on the Israeli flag.

SAUDI ARABIA

MINISTER COMMENTS ON 'ARAFAT CABLE TO KING FAHD

LD161946 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Commenting on Yasir 'Arafat's cable to His Majesty King Fahd, Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani said: The sentiments expressed by Yasir 'Arafat reflect the sentiments of the Palestinians toward our leadership and our country. They understand the truth about the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on behalf of its brothers as they fight their long fight -- efforts in the shape of true words, a firm stand and consistent, sincere support in various contexts, both public and confidential. The Palestinian people and their leaders know the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is always with them in their struggle with complete sincerity, faithfulness and in accordance with the demands of Arab and Islamic obligations. In every phase of the Arab struggle against Israeli aggression, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always affirmed that it strives toward unity of purpose in order to create a solid Arab front, from which we could march out to repel aggression and liberate our land.

The minister said Yasir 'Arafat's cable is of great historic significance, and likely to become eternal. The fact that the Palestinian leadership sent a cable of thanks to King Fahd during this bloody war signifies confidence and appreciation, and an affinity between the Saudi people and the Palestinians. We interpret that as an Islamic and Arab responsibility, and an honor of which we are proud. We will carry the banner of our responsibility for as long as we live. This cable is a timely reminder to us of the depth of the affinity between the two peoples and their leaders.

The minister said observers of the implications of this war would understand perfectly that the Palestinians have written a brilliant chapter in the history of fighting. Through their steadfastness before the forces of the invasion, that possesses the most modern weapons and means of great destruction. In spite of that, these men have remained steadfast, sincere, self-sacrificing and faithful.

As we salute their efforts and their struggle, we appeal to the conscience of the world once again to bear its responsibility to defend the right of the Palestinians to live in their own homeland, like every other nation.

KING FAHD CHAIRS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION

LD162324 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a session yesterday evening under the chairmanship of his Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani made a statement after the meeting which began at 2000 and continued until 2230. The minister said the Council of Ministers listened to a report presented by His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, on the results of his contacts made on the basis of the directives of his majesty the king.

The council then studied some reports concerning the situation in fraternal Lebanon and the continuation of the cease-fire that was achieved after the contacts his majesty the king had with U.S. President Reagan. The council reviewed the development of the current talks and the continuing contacts of the kingdom with friendly states for the defense of Palestinian rights.

The council reiterated its appreciation and esteem for the steadfastness of the Palestinian Resistance and the fraternal Lebanese people in their confrontation with the barbaric Zionist invasion of Lebanese territory. During the session his majesty affirmed the total support of the kingdom for the brothers in Lebanon and their constant endeavor to realize the unity of Lebanese territory and the sovereignty of the Lebanese people over their territory, as well as the Palestinian endeavor to recover their full rights, which were usurped, including their right to establish their own independent state on their national soil.

His majesty also affirmed that the kingdom will not spare any effort to provide any aid which may realize these noble and constructive aims. The council then acquainted itself with the results of the contacts occurring in connection with holding the Arab summit conference. His majesty said we have supported the convening of the summit conference on the basis of our policy, which seeks to bring about Arab unity. We have supported Arab efforts for achieving this objective and we absolutely believe victory over our enemies and opponents depends upon it.

QATARI DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES IN AT-TA'IF

LD140922 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0905 GMT 14 Aug 82

[Text] At-Ta'if, 14 Aug (SPA) -- Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense, Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, arrived in At-Ta'if this morning on a visit to the kingdom that will last a few days. He was met upon arrival in Al-Hawiyyah airport by the second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and a number of senior military and civilian officials.

Makes Statement

LD142330 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 14 Aug 82

[Text] Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent, minister of defense and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, stated on his arrival in At-Ta'if today that his visit to the kingdom falls within the framework of continuous contacts between officials of the two fraternal countries on all levels, and to hold consultations on the development of the Arab situation in particular and questions of mutual interest in general. At the forefront of these questions, he said, is the grave situation facing the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples because of the barbaric Zionist invasion and the base practices of Israel, namely, the extermination war, killing and destruction.

The Qatari heir apparent called on Arab countries to cast away differences, stand firmly and mobilize their capabilities in one rank to support the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in order to repel the barbaric aggression and to confront the forces of evil and oppression that aim not only at Lebanon and the Palestinian Resistance but at the Arabs as a whole.

Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, described bilateral relations as excellent. His highness pointed out that there are directives from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hammad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, to always head toward continuous cooperation in the shadow of the Arab nation's objectives as represented in the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab League.

Talks With Officials

LD151202 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1120 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] At-Ta'if, 15 Aug (SPA) -- Saudi-Qatari talks began shortly before noon today at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation headquarters in At-Ta'if, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general; and His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, crown prince, defense minister and commander in chief of the armed forces of Qatar, who is now on a visit to the kingdom.

The talks were attended on the Saudi side by the assistant for military affairs to the minister of defense and aviation, 'Uthman al-Hamid; and the ambassador of the kingdom to Qatar, 'Abd al-Muhsin az-Zayd. On the Qatari side they were attended by the Qatari ambassador to the kingdom, 'Abd ar-Rahman Hamad al-'Attiyah, and members of the accompanying delegation.

SPA has learned the talks covered a number of subjects of common interest in various domains, particularly the cooperation existing within the framework of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council, in addition to bilateral relations.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani arrived in At-Ta'if yesterday on a visit to the kingdom at the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The visit is due to last several days.

Meets With King Fahd

LD151206 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1125 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] At-Ta'if, 15 Aug (SPA) -- At 1315 this afternoon His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received in his office at the Royal Court His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, crown prince, minister of defense and commander in chief of the armed forces of the State of Qatar.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general; the ambassador of the kingdom in Qatar 'Abd al-Muhsin as-Zayd; and the Qatari ambassador to the kingdom 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn Hamad al-'Attiyah.

Visits Naval Base

LD171135 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1048 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] Al-Jubayl, 17 Aug (SPA) -- His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, and His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, crown prince, minister of defense and commander in chief of the armed forces of Qatar, arrived at the King 'Abd Al-'Aziz Naval Base in Al-Jubayl, from Dhahran this morning.

Their Royal Highnesses Prince Sultan and Shaykh Hamad heard a detailed account of the achievements of the base, its progress and development, its flourishing state and its naval equipment that vies with the most modern technological and naval knowledge, as well as its resources and ships.

BANGLADESH FINANCE MINISTER ARRIVES IN JIDDA

LD131716 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1627 GMT 13 Aug 82

[Text] Jidda, 13 Aug (SPA) -- A.M. Mohith, Bangladesh minister of finance and planning, arrived in Jidda this evening on a 3-day visit.

The visiting minister will hold talks with the Saudi minister of finance and national economy, with a number of Cabinet officials and with officials of the Saudi Development Fund and the Islamic Bank for Development. The talks will concern a number of matters connected with developing bilateral economic relations.

Talks With Minister

LD152002 Riyadh SPA in English 1911 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] At-Ta'if, Aug 15 (SPA) -- Bangladesh Finance and Planning Minister A.M.A. Mohith today discussed with Saudi Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl the activities of the Saudi Development Fund (SDF) in Bangladesh and the development projects co-financed by the fund in the country.

Following the meeting, Shaykh Aba al-Khayl said Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh have agreed to set up a joint investment company and that the kingdom would help finance more development projects in Bangladesh.

Mr Mohith arrived in Jidda on Friday for a several days visit to Saudi Arabia.

Last Thursday, King Fahd ordered a donation of 20 million dollars to Bangladesh to help repair flood damage.

Signs Draft Agreement, Departs

LD162014 Riyadh SPA in English 1922 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Jidda, Aug 16 (SPA) -- Bangladesh Finance and Planning Minister A.M.A. Abdul Mohith left here today for Abu Dhabi after a four-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

During his stay here, he held talks with Saudi National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl on developing bilateral cooperation, the activities of the Saudi Development Fund (SDF) in Bangladesh and projects co-financed by the fund.

Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh also initialled a draft agreement to start up a joint investment company.

BANGLADESH ARMED FORCES CHIEF ENDS VISIT

LD131622 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1533 GMT 13 Aug 82

[Text] Jidda, 13 Aug (SPA) -- The chief of staff of the Bangladesh Armed Forces, Maj Gen Muhammad Nur al-Bin Khan, and his accompanying delegation left Jidda this afternoon after an official 1-week visit to the kingdom.

Major General Khan visited a number of military bases and installations during his stay in the kingdom.

UAE

DELEGATION LEADER VIEWS UPCOMING NIGER MEETING

GF151720 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Aug (WAKH) -- It has been decided that the UAE will participate in the meetings of the 13th session of the Islamic foreign ministers conference which will be held in Niamey, Niger, on 22 August.

Sayf Sa'id Sa'id, ambassador at the UAE Foreign Ministry and chairman of the delegation, stated today that the conference will discuss several current Arab and international issues, particularly the developments in the Arab-Zionist struggle in light of the invasion of Lebanon and the war of liquidation that is being waged by the enemy against the Palestinian and Lebanese people, and developments of the Palestinian question. It will also discuss a report on the activities of the Jerusalem Committee and the situation in Jerusalem under the Zionist occupation.

Mr Sa'id added that the conference will also discuss the developments in the Iraq-Iran war, the efforts made by the Islamic Conference Organization to find a peaceful solution to this war and the reports prepared by the committees that were formed by the Islamic Conference Organization on this issue.

He announced the UAE delegation will hold side consultations during the conference with representatives of Arab and Islamic countries in order to adopt decisive resolutions against the Zionist enemy, to coordinate the stands among these countries with respect to several issues on the agenda, particularly current international issues, and to adopt a joint stand against countries that support the Zionist enemy.

He said the conference will discuss the situation in Afghanistan and the problem of Afghan refugees.

PDRY

IRANIAN MAJLIS DELEGATION HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE

CF170410 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] The Iranian parliamentary delegation currently visiting the PDRY held a press conference at the guest palace today with representatives of the PDRY press and information media.

The Iranian parliamentary delegation expressed great satisfaction with its visit to the PDRY and its meetings with state and party officials, foremost among whom is Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. The delegation also expressed its great pleasure at the growth of relations between the PDRY and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Iranian delegation strongly condemned the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, an invasion supported by U.S. imperialism, and said there are a great many Iranian volunteers fighting alongside the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces in Lebanon. The delegation emphasized the Iranian revolution's support for the Palestinian people and its firm support for the Palestinian Revolution under the PLO's leadership as well as for the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, self-determination and to establish an independent state in their homeland.

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD RECEIVES KING HASSAN'S ENVOY

GF151633 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of ministers, today received Ahmad Bensouda, adviser to King Hassan II of Morocco and his special envoy. During the meeting Bensouda conveyed a message from the Moroccan monarch to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

Ahmad Bensouda arrived in Aden today on a brief visit to the PDRY. He was received at the airport by 'Ali as-Sallami, member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, chairman of the council's Foreign Relations Committee and chairman of the PDRY parliamentary branch, and by Foreign Ministry officials.

YAR

MOROCCAN ENVOY ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FOR SALIH

GF141821 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Aug 82

[Text] Ahmad Bensouda, adviser to King Hassan II of Morocco, arrived in San'a' this evening on a short visit to the YAR, during which he will deliver a message to Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, from his brother the Moroccan monarch.

In a statement to SABA', Bensouda said the message deals with Morocco's call to resume the Fes summit and with the need for Arab (?action) amid (?terrifying) events and the current situation in the Arab nation. He expressed his happiness over this visit and his mission.

The Moroccan official affirmed that, amid this situation and sweeping events, no Arab official can wait. He also expressed hope that the Arabs will reach [agreement] on holding this meeting.

He was received at the airport by Dr 'Abd al-Wahab Mahmud, member of the consulative assembly and a representative of the Foreign Ministry protocol department.

Meets With Salih

GF160528 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, has received a message from King Hassan II of Morocco dealing with the current Arab situation. The message was conveyed by the Moroccan king's adviser, Ahmad Bensouda, during a meeting with the brother president today.

Makes Statement, Departs

GF151431 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] The Moroccan king's adviser, Ahmad Bensouda, left San'a' for home this afternoon after conveying a message from King Hassan II of Morocco to 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, dealing with the convening of an Arab summit on the threats in the Arab arena, especially after the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and the seige of the capital, Beirut.

Ahmad Bensouda expressed pleasure at meeting the brother president and said the president has a clear and in-depth view of what is happening in Lebanon and that he believes in the urgent necessity of holding any Arab meeting, especially since Yemen was in the forefront of the Arab countries that called for such a conference. Bensouda concluded his statement by saying the brother president affirmed that his country will exert every effort for the success of any Arab meeting.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM FIDEL CASTRO

GF151342 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, today received a message from Fidel Castro, president of Cuba and current president of the Nonaligned Movement, dealing with the seventh nonaligned summit, the current situation resulting from the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and with bilateral relations.

OFFICIALS STATE POSITION ON AUTONOMY TALKS

GF161418 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1359 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA) -- MENA has learned that Egypt has informed the United States that Egypt will not think of resuming the [Palestinian] autonomy talks [with Israel] prior to the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and the restoration of full Lebanese authority.

The Egyptian stand was communicated to the U.S. side during a meeting between Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Henry Precht, U.S. charge d'affaires in Cairo, yesterday and also during today's meeting between Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali and the U.S. charge d'affaires.

MENA has learned that the Egyptian stand communicated to the United States is that Egypt will not consider resuming the autonomy talks -- which have been frozen as a result of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, an aggression that undermines peace efforts and obstructs this matter prior to the complete withdrawal from all of Arab Lebanon and the restoration of its full sovereignty.

MENA has learned that Egypt has also emphasized to the U.S. side that when the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon is complete and the resumption of the autonomy is considered, the way in which the talks proceeded for several years must first be changed, because if the talks continue as they did in past years they will not achieve any results. Therefore, Egypt believes that the concepts of autonomy should first be defined during the transition period, which will be followed by the exercise of the right of self-determination -- in accordance with the peace treaty. This is because if the talks are held on the basis of Israeli interpretations, these Israeli interpretations will divest the Camp David accords of their real contents.

Egypt also demands that the concepts of autonomy should be defined during the transition period and the arrangements for it made prior to the talks. This is in order to ensure that the talks will not continue for many more years without any results.

'STRATEGIC COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL REJECTED

PM161525 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Aug 82 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Ghali: Our Relations With Israel Are Frozen Because of its Invasion of Lebanon"]

[Text] Cairo -- Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that normal relations between Egypt and Israel have been frozen because of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian people. He denied that the aim of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon is to create a strategic triangle with Israel as its head point and Lebanon and Egypt its two wings. He said: This is pure nonsense. These unrealistic ideas are completely unfounded.

He added that Egypt rejects any kind of strategic cooperation with Israel as long as the problem remains unsolved and as long as there is no comprehensive peace in the region.

It is worth noting that while the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has expressed reservations and made no particular comments on the five Israeli conditions for the withdrawal of the Palestinians from Beirut, diplomatic circles have questioned the matter and maintain that Israel's aim is to submit conditions that are impossible for the PLO and its leaders to accept.

An informed source has told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that even if the Palestinians agree to these Israeli conditions, Israel will come up with more conditions to plug all possible ways out. He added that Israel wants to destroy and wipe out the Resistance.

Dr Ghali has said that Israel is not the trustee of any Arab state and therefore has no right to call for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon. This decision, he said, is strictly a matter of Lebanese sovereignty.

ENVOY TO BE RECALLED IF ISRAELIS ENTER W. BEIRUT

PM161155 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 14-20 Aug 82 p 10

[From "AL-MAJALLAH correspondents' dispatches"]

[Text] Egyptian official sources have confirmed that Egyptian Ambassador in Tel Aviv Sa'd Murtada, who has recently returned to his post in Israel, will be recalled to Egypt if Israeli Forces enter Beirut. In that event, Egypt will also take a number of other measures related to freezing relations between the two countries.

The Egyptian ambassador visited Cairo for "family reasons" and returned to Israel. There is an air of pessimism and a headline is emerging with calls for severing relations with Tel Aviv -- not just recalling the ambassador -- if Israeli forces storm west Beirut.

'ALI, GHALI MEET WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVES

GF161406 Cairo MENA in English 1347 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Excerpt] Cairo, Aug 16 (MENA) -- The Egyptian Foreign Ministry held today official and intensive talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The first meeting was between Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and member of the PLO Executive Committee Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani while the second meeting was between Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and Dr ad-Dajani.

The ministry's working group which comprises Ambassadors Mahmud Fathi and Fu'ad Yusuf also met with the PLO representatives.

The meetings come within the context of intensive consultations between Egypt and the PLO for confronting the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The PLO delegation, during its meeting with Hasan 'Ali, expounded the political framework of the resistance-work in the coming stage.

Hasan 'Ali affirmed to the delegation that Egypt could not receive any Palestinian militants except within the framework of a just and overall solution for the Palestinian cause affirming the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self determination.

EGYPT 'WILLING' TO RECEIVE PLO LEADERS, NOT FIGHTERS

PM161619 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Aug 82 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Cairo: We Will Receive Resistance Leaders Provided They Form Provisional Government"]

[Text] Cairo -- A senior Egyptian official has stated that Egypt is willing to receive the Palestinian leaders, if they choose to form a provisional government in Cairo, provided their political presence is restricted within a plan for a comprehensive settlement through negotiations with Israel.

In a statement to ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the official said that Egypt's willingness to admit Resistance leaders does not mean it is willing to admit fighters. He added that this position stems from President Mubarak's earlier declaration that Egypt would welcome the formation of a Palestinian provisional government in Cairo.

'HIGH LEVEL' MEDICAL TEAM TO TREAT WOUNDED IN BEIRUT

GF161558 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that the Palestinian Resistance delegation made an official request to Egypt to receive those wounded during the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. He added that Egypt informed the delegation that it has decided to form a high level medical team that will be equipped with the necessary medical supplies and instruments to be sent to Beirut next week to treat the wounded. He said: As for those cases that require surgery that cannot be dealt with there, Egypt is prepared to treat them in Egyptian hospitals.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said he informed the PLO delegation of Egypt's fixed stand that it cannot accept the Palestinians who leave Beirut unless this takes place within a comprehensive settlement of the issue. He said he related this to the U.S. charge d'affaires in Cairo and explained to him that the autonomy negotiations cannot proceed the same way they proceeded during the previous stage because Israel's interpretations empty the Camp David accords of their essence. He said: It is a must that the concepts pertaining to the Palestinians' transition period and the special transition measures be defined.

PRESS ON U.S. ABILITY TO PRESSURE ISRAEL

NC162345 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 16 Aug 82

[From the press review]

[Text] [Words indistinct] AL-AKHBAR reports on the new U.S. course that has been expressed by President Reagan and says that the United States has the means and the alternatives to apply pressure on Israel if it violates the recent cease-fire.

The paper explains that this new U.S. course affirms the untruthfulness of the previous statements by the U.S. administration that its ability to intervene and pressure Israel is limited. It also affirms the contradiction and the untruthfulness of more than one announcement made by Israeli officials, at the head of whom is Begin, that Israel would not give in or respond to any U.S. (?pressure) if it were not in line with its policy and interests.

The paper affirms that no one in the world has believed the claims of either side -- the United States and Israel -- especially because everyone knows Israel's very existence is fundamentally dependent upon U.S. aid.

The paper ascribes the emergence of this new U.S. course, which has become clear after the angry telephone conversation between Reagan and Begin and to which the Israeli military gave in, to Israel's going beyond the framework the U.S. administration defined for Israel's aggression against Lebanon.

The paper concludes its commentary by saying: The new U.S. stance affirms that Egypt has announced -- that all the cards of the game are in the hands of the United States and this affirms Egypt has been right in what it has been saying and that it has been far-reaching in its opinions and stances [words indistinct] which proves that its policy is well planned.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that Egypt has been committed to a clear and frank stance since the beginning of the problem of the evacuation of the Palestinian fighters from Beirut -- the solution of the basic problem, which is the future of the Palestinian people and their regaining their legitimate rights, foremost among which is their right to self-determination.

The paper says that Israel does not want to submit to this truth and tries through the policy of bloody violence in Lebanon and terrorism in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to liquidate this problem or at least to cover it up with side issues.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that the United States helps Israel carry out this policy through unlimited political support, which is hoped will change in light of the U.S. reevaluation of its policy in the Middle East.

The paper calls on the Arab states to take a united stance that is divorced from differences and fragmentation to foil the attempt at liquidating the Palestinian issue.

IRANIANS REPORTEDLY EXECUTE EGYPTIAN 'MERCENARIES'

PM161201 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 14-20 Aug 82 p 11

[From "AL-MAJALLAH correspondents' dispatches"]

[Text] Egypt has received a secret report about the execution of a number of Egyptians captured by Iranian forces in battles with Iraq. Iran considered them "mercenaries," not prisoners of war.

Meanwhile, intensive contacts are underway between Egypt and Israel for the release of some 59 Egyptians captured by Israel from within the ranks of the Palestinian Resistance in Lebanon. Israel has been dragging its feet on this matter on the pretext that it wants to complete their interrogation.

BRIEFS

AID AGREEMENT WITH U.S. -- Cairo, Aug, 16 (MENA) -- Egypt and the United States signed today two agreements by virtue of which Egypt will receive 72.4 million dollars for the telecommunications development projects and for the renovation and expansion of the greater Cairo water project within the context of U.S. aid programme to Egypt for 1982. The agreements were signed by Muhammad 'Abd al-Fatah Ibrahim, deputy premier and minister of economy and finance and U.S. charge d'affaires here Henry Precht. [Cairo MENA in English 1145 GMT 16 Aug 82 GF]

NEW OMANI ENVOY -- Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA) -- Omani Ambassador 'Abdallah al-Ghazali will leave Cairo for home today to be replaced by the new Omani ambassador to Egypt, Ghalib Jubran, who was his country's ambassador to Tunisia. [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Aug 82 GF]

KHAYRALLAH PREDICTS CENTRAL SECTOR OFFENSIVE

JN161106 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA) -- Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces and defense minister, has stressed that the iron will that faced the Iranians east of Basra will face them and crush their evil forces in any sector they choose to commit aggression on Iraq.

In a statement to INA today, he said the Iranian enemy is now studying the possibility of attacking another military sector across the border. He indicated that in accordance with the latest information received by the Iraqi [General] Command, the enemy has chosen the central sector of operations for aggression, but is still discussing whether this sector will be used as a main or secondary sector for crossing the border.

The Iraqi military official pointed out that enemy discussions are concentrated on the fact that Iraq's preparedness in the southern operational sector has become strong and the fact that Iran has been defeated in this sector, a matter that requires it not to repeat its mistakes.

The deputy commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces said the Iranian enemy believes that all the Iraqi reserve forces and combat maneuvers have been transferred to the Iraqi Army's southern sector and more specifically to east of Basra. He added that the enemy, according to the recent advice of its allies, has chosen another approach which it thinks will make it easy for it to implement its aggressive aims.

He pointed out that the enemy's choice of the central sector comes in the wake of the massive losses sustained during its recent five abortive offensives east of Basra.

Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah called on the Iranian Army and people, which are afflicted by the evil ruling regime in Tehran, to realize these facts and avoid the crematorium from which they will not be saved if they respond to the wicked and suspect selfish Khomeyni motives, cross Iraq's border and try to desecrate our land.

ARMED FORCES COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 812

JN161622 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Communique No 812 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To ward off evil and aggression against Iraq's pure land and its heroic people, the Iraqi Armed Forces continued their valiant activities in the operational sectors against the rancorous Iranian regime last night and today, with the following results:

1. An enemy concentration was sighted by our positions in the northern sector. Our forces pounded it, killing 21, wounding others and destroying 1 vehicle and a number of arms and personnel positions.
2. Four were killed and one vehicle carrying arms was destroyed in the Basra sector.
3. Three were killed in the (Shib) area.
4. The racist Iranian enemy shelled residential areas and economic installations in Basra and in the village of Zurbatiyah today, causing some damage and losses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 August 1982

BAGHDAD AZERI ON SYRIA'S ROLE IN IRAN-IRAQ WAR

GF161706 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1800 GMT 14 Aug 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: When their occupation plans fail to achieve success, international imperialism and Zionism resort to other ways and means to reach their goals. In fact, they draw up even uglier plans and put them into effect with unfounded and deceptive slogans. One example of this fact happened in Iran 3 years ago. It will be recalled that when they realized that the shah's regime in Iran was weak in comparison to revolutionary Iraq and when they felt that the Iraqi people were strong enough to defend their homeland, international imperialism and Zionism moved to replace the shah of Iran with a more reactionary force. It was after this that the Khomeyni clique began to play a most complex part in the [words indistinct] of Iran.

Developments over the past 3 years indicate that the Khomeyni clique is a most evil force which carries out the plans drawn up by international imperialism and Zionism for the Middle East and which causes discord, instability and agitation in the region. For 3 years now the Khomeyni regime, which launched a war against revolutionary Iraq with the help of international imperialism and Zionism, has been receiving aid from international imperialists and the Tel Aviv administrators on a large scale. It will be recalled that the evil character of the Khomeyni regime became known to all when the military cooperation between the Iranian and the Israeli regime was exposed.

This bloody war has been continuing for 25 months now. In the course of the war, the heroic troops of Iraq occupied large parts of Iran and dealt heavy blows to Iranian military units. However, taking into consideration the wish of the world's peoples and the fact that Iraq does not cover Iranian territory, the Iraqi forces have withdrawn to the recognized international borders.

Irregardless to this fact, Tehran's cooperation with the rulers of Syria is becoming more obvious. The Syrian leaders are extending military aid to the Iranian rulers in the hope of making them forget the defeats they have been suffering in the war. The Syrian rulers are in fact encouraging the Iranian leaders to continue the war. The Syrian rulers are allowing Iranian military aircraft to fly through Syrian airspace to attack military and economic targets in Iraq.

It is obvious that the cooperation between the administrators in Damascus and the rulers in Tehran is part of the aggressive plans drawn up by international imperialism and the Zionist movement.

Therefore, this cooperation is conducive to their interests. Nevertheless, the aggressive war against Iraq will never weaken the Iraqi people's strong determination. This is due to the fact that the Iraqi people are fighting to retrieve their just rights. They rest assured that they will be victorious in this respect. No one must doubt this fact.

BADRAN ADDRESSES MUNICIPAL, RURAL OFFICIALS

JN161758 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran has stated that the objective of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon is to liquidate the PLO, remove all the military forces present on Lebanese territory and establish a Lebanese government over which Israel would have influence on concluding a peace treaty such as that with Egypt. I believe Israel will withdraw only on this basis, as was the case of its withdrawal from the Sinai. Israel is occupying almost all of Lebanon; it is planning to occupy the part it has not yet occupied after the so-called Beirut crisis ends. It may occupy Al-Biqa' and northern Lebanon if the situation continues as it is.

In an open and frank dialogue with the heads of the municipal and rural councils today, Prime Minister Mudar Badran praised the stand of the courageous fighters in west Beirut who are fighting in defense of the Arab nation with a steadfastness that will be proudly recorded by history. He said Beirut's steadfastness in the face of the sophisticated war machine makes us hope that whoever possesses the determination to fight and the readiness to offer sacrifices and martyrs will stand fast.

During his 4-hour meeting at the Arab language academy, Prime Minister Mudar Badran reviewed the stages and developments of the barbaric invasion of Lebanon and explained with numbers the losses sustained by the invasion forces. He said that during the first 10 days of the invasion Israel's losses were 350 dead and 1,200 wounded and 40 tanks, 10 fighter planes and 2 helicopters lost, while Israel announced that its losses during this period did not exceed 50 percent of the above figures.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said this invasion did not surprise us, and His Majesty King Husayn had repeatedly warned of this with respect to the Lebanese issue. The prime minister stressed the need for Arab solidarity. He said: In the absence of such solidarity, the enemy will find a breach through which it will strike at pan-Arab interests. What is taking place in Lebanon now is the best proof of this and enables Israel to deal separately with each Arab country. He said the forthcoming Arab summit would be convened and would be a responsible, sincere summit that could restore self-confidence to the Arab nation. He said Jordan is the most eager Arab country to achieve Arab solidarity. Jordan has attended all summits and meetings that have served the Arabs' fateful causes.

He stressed that Jordan's relations with Arab countries are good and that Jordan is working to achieve a unified Arab stand. He called on the Arab nation to take an effective role in the events taking place in the region. This will only be achieved through a single Arab will to confront the schemes directed against the Arab nation.

The prime minister referred to the U.S. stand in support of Israel. He said: Not content with providing Israel with the most sophisticated tools for a destructive war, it stood beside it in all international forums, particularly at the UN Security Council, where it foiled all the resolutions pertaining to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. When the resolution is one of procedure and concerns Israel, it approves it on the basis that Israel will not respond to it, but if the resolution calls for sanctions on Israel if not implemented, the United States uses its veto to foil it. Despite all this, we must not blame others. We must deal with matters in a logical, reasonable manner.

The prime minister dealt with the Iraq-Iran war and Jordan's support for fraternal Iraq from the premise of the pan-Arab character of the battle and commitment to the Arab League Charter and the collective Arab defense pact.

It also stems from Jordan's attempts to create an Arab stand that supports Iraq, a country that has never hesitated to participate in all the battles the Arab nation has waged against Israel. He also referred to Iranian expansionist designs at the expense of Arab land whose Arab character Iraq is defending.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said cohesion among the sons of the one people will be the rock against which all conspiracies will founder, regardless of their ferocity.

He said Jordan had been the one to foil the Camp David schemes. The popular army, which will be the supporter of our armed forces, will train all citizens without exception.

The prime minister reiterated that Jordan welcomes all those returning from Lebanon who have Jordanian passports, from a constitutional, legal and national premise.

MONTE CARLO NOTES TERMS FOR FIGHTERS' RETURN

JN171238 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Telephone dispatch by Monte Carlo radio correspondent in Amman Fu'ad Na'im -- live or recorded]

[Text] Jordan has notified the PLO and the Lebanese Government that Amman cannot receive Palestinian fighters returning from Beirut except through Jordan's land border crossing at Ar-Ramtha. This measure rules out the possibility of entry through the port of Aqaba as has been reported during the last few days.

This notification came in a Jordanian memorandum sent to the Lebanese Government and the PLO. The memorandum contained points of the arrangements made for receiving a number of Palestinians in Jordan. In addition to the need to return by the land border crossing, these are summed up as follows:

1. The members of the Palestine Liberation Army who left Jordan for Beirut at the outset of fighting in Lebanon will return to Jordan the way they left it. [as heard]
2. Every Jordanian in Palestinian organizations will be accepted if he holds a valid or invalid Jordanian passport.
3. Those Jordanians who have lost their passports will be accepted on the condition that their names are submitted to the Jordanian Government in advance.
4. Any person to whom the above-mentioned conditions are inapplicable will not be accepted. The Lebanese Government must pledge in advance to readmit any person rejected by Jordan.

SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT, DEPARTS

JN161233 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, has said the Arab summit conference is expected to be held during the next 4 weeks.

In a statement upon his departure from Amman today at the end of a 2-day visit to Jordan during which he handed His Majesty King Husayn a message from His Majesty King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Al-Faysal added that discussions at the summit conference will concentrate on the current political issues in the Arab region and the appropriate solutions to the problems and obstacles facing the Arab nation with the aim of reaching a joint Arab formula.

Regarding the Saudi proposals that will be submitted to the conference, he said Saudi Arabia, like any other Arab state, is shouldering its responsibility toward the current Arab situation and aims at unifying the Arab nation's ranks. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and the Saudi ambassador in Amman.

ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO 'FACILITATE ELECTION'

NC161300 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] U.S. envoy Philip Habib returned today with positive indications, according to informed sources. His recent efforts have resulted in an agreement from Begin to start withdrawing Israeli forces from their positions on the roads leading to Mansur Palace [Chamber of Deputies headquarters] and the adjacent areas as of tomorrow, Tuesday. The aim of the withdrawal is to facilitate the presidential election this coming Thursday.

Some 2,800 men from the Lebanese Army and the internal security forces and public security forces are scheduled to take up their positions in the perimeter of the palace where the elections will take place. A Lebanese military coordination committee began contacts today to make the practical arrangements to enable the army to establish permanent posts in the perimeter of Mansur Palace and access roads. These arrangements are expected in this area in the next few hours.

Intensive U.S. efforts and pressures were exerted on Israel to withdraw its forces from the Chamber of Deputies perimeter. Israel seems to have made a decision on this issue. In the meantime, contacts are under way with the Syrians and Palestinians for the same purpose.

FRANCE, BRITAIN, FRG ASKED TO SEND OBERVERS

NC161505 Paris AFP in English 1415 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Paris, Aug. 16 (AFP) -- The Lebanese Parliament has asked France, Britain and West Germany to send observers to Beirut to assist in the presidential election to be carried out by members of parliament on Thursday, official sources here said today.

Sources at the French Foreign Ministry said that talks are currently underway with officials in London and Bonn to define the level of the three-nation delegation.

The sources added that Palestine Liberation Organization Political chief Faruq Qaddumi met with a senior French Foreign Ministry official on Saturday during a brief stopover here on his way to New York. The subject of the talks was not disclosed.

VOL REPORTS ON FORTHCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

NC161856 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English 1800 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Seventy-two hours before the presidential elections and 4 days before the Palestinian evacuation from Beirut, a relaxed and somewhat calm atmosphere reigns in Beirut and the suburbs. Progress is being made on the political level, while all military movements have virtually come to a halt in preparation for both D-days.

According to the special commission at the (?house) of parliament in charge of the written laws of the constitution, a majority presence of 62 deputy members is required to begin the voting session. However, if this majority number is not reached during the first count of elections this Thursday, the presence of 47 deputy members in the second round would then be sufficient for the election of a new president.

The American special envoy, Philip Habib, returned today from Israel, bringing with him positive and encouraging answers to the Palestinian problem.

Tomorrow, Tuesday, and in cooperation with the Habib peace project, the Israeli forces are scheduled to evacuate their positions in and around the Mansur Palace, which at present is the seat of the National Assembly, where the presidential elections are to be held this coming Thursday. Two thousand eight hundred elements from both the Lebanese Army and the national security guards will be positioned around the Mansur Palace to ensure a peaceful and secure atmosphere during election day. We note that the U.S. President, Ronald Reagan, had strongly asked the Israeli troops to withdraw from the election area, while contacts have been made with the Syrian and Palestinian troops alike for the same reason of security and stability.

Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam announced today that he will definitely take part in the presidential elections on Thursday and has reiterated his call for a peaceful national dialogue.

HADDAD URGES DEPUTIES TO ELECT PRESIDENT

NC170654 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] Free Lebanon commander Major Haddad has made the following statement to our radio correspondent: First, I ask those who claim to be deputies, that is, those who call themselves deputies, who have always been pliable tools in the hands of the Syrians and swindlers [Palestinians] to behave in the same way with the new reality. I ask them to go to the Chamber of Deputies without stalling like sheep on the set date to elect a new president of the country capable of ending the Syrian and swindler presence in Lebanon and of striking at and subjugating any Lebanese party that rejects Lebanon's future policy, which depends on friendship and cooperation with the State of Israel against anything that is Arab or has anything to do with Arabism. Any deputy who fails to attend the session will be punished.

Second, I advise the sons of the areas of 'Alayh and Ash-Shuf to stop being stubborn, lay down their arms and submit to and obey the Lebanese Forces before it is too late. If they fail to do this after 19 August, they will be legally subjugated by force. No one then can intercede in their favor.

AL-WAZZAN 'OPTIMISTIC' AFTER HABIB MEETING

NC161344 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] At noon today, U.S. envoy Philip Habib briefed President Ilyas Sarkis, Prime Minister al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Butrus on the results and the stages of the talks he had all day yesterday with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Foreign Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Sharon.

Informed government sources reported that the Cabinet may be called to convene an extraordinary session today or tomorrow to review what envoy Habib conveyed from Israel and to decide in light of this on the issue of summoning international forces to Lebanon.

Our correspondent in the Republican Palace will now give a report after, as he said, envoy Philip Habib left the Republican Palace following the Lebanese-U.S. meeting at 1415 [1215 GMT] today, the time at which this newscast began. It seems the atmosphere is positive and optimistic. We will listen to two statements: the first one by Foreign Minister Butrus and the second by Prime Minister al-Wazzan on the reported optimism.

[Begin correspondent recording] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, a few minutes ago at the end of the meeting in B'abda Palace between the Lebanese and U.S. sides said: I believe that we are approaching a solution this week. Habib is satisfied with the results of the talks he had. Foreign Minister Butrus said that the current talks are considered to be minor with regard to the points submitted for discussions. He said: I am optimistic.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan made the following statement on leaving the palace: After envoy Habib briefed me on the results of his talks in Israel, which, naturally, explained the basis for a solution and [words indistinct]. [end recording]

[Begin Al-Wazzan recording; followed by interview with correspondent] When envoy Habib left for Israel, I said that there were specific points which were still unresolved. Today, Habib returned with comments on these unresolved points. These remarks almost solved these points. We are in a stage of putting the final touches to all positions so they can be implemented. I can say and reassure everyone that, as a matter of fact, we are now at the beginning of the road to implementation in the near future, God willing. As for the Cabinet meeting, it will be called to convene its ordinary session on Wednesday. We hope by then that everything will be ready for an announcement.

[Question] Regarding the session to elect a new president Thursday, it is well known that Habib wanted to discuss this issue with the Israeli officials to withdraw the Israeli units from the periphery of the Museum and the Chamber of Deputies building [word indistinct].

[Answer] At today's session, we did not discuss this issue. I, however, discussed this issue in the morning at a meeting with the army commander and the commander of the internal security forces on the security procedures that must be taken to facilitate the election process. During the meeting, we drew up the bases on which the army and the internal security forces will cooperate to attain this.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, do you expect official withdrawal [words indistinct]?

[Answer] I expect that the program formulated by Philip Habib for consultation with all the parties concerned will be implemented this weekend at the latest.

[Question] Is the multinational force expected to arrive Thursday?

[Answer] The multinational force will arrive at the proper time specified in the program. [end recording]

AL-WAZZAN MEETS PLO'S AL-HASAN, MINISTERS

NC161944 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Official and political circles are optimistic about the coming implementation of the steps and agreements reached on the withdrawal of the Palestinian fighters from Beirut, in light of the talks U.S. envoy Philip Habib has had in Israel, and the positive results he has brought back with him for resolving the Beirut crisis as a vehicle for resolving the entire Lebanese issue.

Within the framework of the official moves for remedying the crisis, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan met this evening with [PLO Chairman] Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, Hani al-Hasan, and reviewed with him the results of the current contacts for resolving the issue politically and the results achieved so far.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan then received (Samman Salam) and reviewed the current developments with him.

Later, Prime Minister al-Wazzan held a ministerial meeting attended by Ministers Junblatt, Al-Labban and Hamadah. Walid Junblatt joined the meeting later. The discussions dealt with what Philip Habib brought back with him from Israel.

After the meeting, Junblatt made a statement in which he said: Matters are proceeding along a positive line. What is required is complete and total adherence to the cease-fire so Israel will have no excuse to carry out any operation. Replying to a question, Junblatt expressed surprise at the new legal opinions that are being expressed about a quorum at the Chamber of Deputies -- that the presence of 62 deputies, instead of 66, should constitute a quorum. He expressed his anxiety about such opinions. He also expressed the wish that the [Chamber of Deputies presidential elections] session [scheduled for 19 August] will be postponed until an internal Lebanese accord is reached that will bring Lebanon out of its tribulation.

ISRAEL'S KIMCHE ARRIVES IN BEIRUT TO MEET HABIB

NC161705 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche arrived in Beirut this evening to meet with and be briefed by U.S. envoy Philip Habib on the results of the talks the U.S. envoy has held with the Lebanese side in B'abda Palace.

ISLAMIC GROUPING ON SITUATION, ELECTION

NC161353 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] The Islamic Grouping and the Front for the Preservation of the South held a joint meeting at the house of [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam today and issued a statement which said: The conferees acquainted themselves with the progress of the current negotiations with U.S. Ambassador Philip Habib. From the present stage of the negotiations it has transpired that most obstacles have been overcome due to the efforts exerted, particularly by the officials and the national political leaders. It is thus possible to be cautiously optimistic that peaceful solution has gained ascendancy over the continuation of Israeli aggression. The positive progress of the negotiations must give an opportunity for intensive efforts to lift the supply blockade on Beirut.

The statement adds: The local and external efforts must continue to spread relaxation in the steadfast capital and reassure its dutiful sons.

Regarding the presidential elections, the Islamic Grouping and the Front for the Preservation of the South believe that under the present circumstances, this issue must assume special importance, and enough time must be given and the appropriate and necessary atmosphere provided for holding consultations and an exchange of views in an atmosphere of freedom and democracy to achieve an understanding and amity among the Lebanese, and emphasize their national unity to establish an independent, strong and sovereign homeland.

AL-AS'AD REPORTEDLY VISITED DAMASCUS 14 AUG

NC151021 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] It has been learned from sources close to Kamil al-As'ad, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, that Speaker al-As'ad visited Damascus yesterday and held a 4-hour meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during which they discussed the current Arab situation, particularly the Lebanese issues. The sources added that upon the conclusion of his talks in Damascus yesterday, Speaker al-As'ad returned to Beirut.

PDRY'S 'ALI 'ANTAR ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS 16 AUGUST

JN162135 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Brig Gen 'Ali 'Antar, PDRY first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of local government, arrived in Damascus from Tripoli at 2115 today. He was welcomed at the airport by Walid Hamdun, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Anis Khattat, director of protocol at the prime minister's office; and the PDRY ambassador and embassy staff in Damascus.

Makes Statement

JN170630 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] In a statement to SANA, Brig Gen 'Ali 'Antar, PDRY first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of local government, said: It gives us pleasure to pay a working visit to fraternal Arab Syria and convey to President Hafiz al-Asad a message from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, and YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The message deals with the two Yemeni leaders' approval of Libya's recent proposals on dispatching military divisions and aircraft squadrons to bolster the steadfastness of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces confronting the Zionist enemy invasion of Lebanon with similar strength and savageness.

'Antar added: We will discuss with President Hafiz al-Asad the latest developments in Lebanon in light of the Zionist invasion, the enemy's continuation of its savage practices and actions against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and its threats against Syrian forces in Al-Biqa' and against the security of fraternal Syria in general.

He praised the militant relations linking the two peoples in the two fraternal countries -- two peoples who are today standing in one trench against the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught. Those two peoples, he added, are today facing new challenges that require us to lay down a joint solid basis, unify ranks and mobilize all capabilities and potential in order to deter the Zionist invaders, who are backed by the U.S. administration, which is trying to impose its hegemony over the Arab region.

'Antar expressed the readiness of both Yemens to extend all possible aid for confronting the enemy, placing all their capabilities at the disposal of the holy Arab battle for the sake of putting an end to the savage aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples as well as Syria.

'Antar pointed out that his visit to Syria comes at a time when the Syrian and the Lebanese-Palestinian joint forces are waging holy battles against the Zionist enemy on the various fighting axes. He added that history is recording bright pages of the struggle being waged by Syria, the Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese National Movement in the fight against the invading forces, which are heavily armed with the U.S. weapons of destruction.

PHALANGIST DELEGATION VISITS DAMASCUS 16 AUG

JN161746 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Beirut George Bashir -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] It seems that the Nobel Peace Prize will go to U.S. envoy Philip Habib, as some diplomatic sources in Beirut have put it. It seems that Habib's plan regarding the political solution of the Beirut issue and of the military presence in it has worked out and was successfully managed to avoid a destructive military solution.

Knowledgeable sources have revealed to our radio that extremely important contacts took place a few hours ago among Beirut, Riyadh, Washington, Paris, Rome and Damascus. Furthermore, intensive contacts are underway between the Lebanese and Palestinian sides. The parliamentary blocs held a series of meetings today to discuss the question of electing a new president of the republic. A Phalangist delegation comprising deputy George Sa'adah, lawyer Karim Baqraduni and AL-'AMAL editor in chief Joseph Abu Khalil visited Damascus today. The delegation held an expanded meeting with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The talks, according to informed sources, dealt with Lebanon and the situation in the Middle East. The meeting also dealt with an important constitutional provision, that of the presidential election in Beirut. The delegation sources described the talks in Damascus as frank and positive.

DAMASCUS RADIO ON SYRIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON

JN161514 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The Israeli invasion of Lebanon has now entered its 71st day. Israeli forces have been besieging Beirut for more than 2 months. The city and its inhabitants have been subjected to aerial, naval and ground bombardment and all kinds of missiles and explosives, including vacuum bombs, which are banned internationally.

Despite all this, can anyone claim that the new racist Nazi rulers in Tel Aviv have achieved the objectives they set for their invasion, occupation and barbaric crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinians?

Before replying to this question, it is necessary to remind everyone that the Tel Aviv rulers set three objectives, aside from the so-called objective of achieving peace for Galilee, for their invasion. These three objectives, as defined by the Tel Aviv rulers on more than one occasion, are: liquidating the PLO and its military and political presence as a prelude to liquidating the Palestinian people's rights; establishing a new Lebanese situation that will remove it from the Arab fold and bring it within the Israeli circle of influence, thus making it conclude a capitulatory peace treaty with Israel, normalize relations with Israel and implement one of the stages of the Camp David accords; and removing Syrian forces, which are present in Lebanon in a legitimate manner and in accordance with an Arab decision and a Lebanese request, from Lebanon.

If we review the current situation and the extent of the progress achieved by the Tel Aviv rulers concerning these objectives, we find, despite all the bitterness caused by the Arab situation and stands and the temporary de facto situation in Lebanon, that these rulers have not achieved any of the objectives they have set for themselves and for the United States, which is supporting them.

Despite all its actual losses and the principled agreement to withdraw its fighters from Beirut, the PLO is now stronger and more influential in the world.

Despite the occupation, Lebanon has not signed a peace treaty and no official has expressed his readiness to sign such a treaty.

As for the Syrian forces, they have demonstrated by their steadfastness and sacrifices that they can stand fast against the Israeli war machine, supplied by the United States. They have demonstrated that they can carry out their duty by relying on Syria's potential alone and not on Arab potential and capabilities that are available.

In their battles with the Israeli enemy, Syrian forces have shown that they have fully integrated an effective weapons system and are capable of shattering the myth of the invincibility of the Israeli army when certain circumstances become available. Syrian forces are the forces of the legitimate Lebanese authorities and are present in Lebanon in a legitimate manner. These forces continue to be present and will defend this presence unaffected by any Israeli pressure. They will not withdraw from Lebanon unless the cause for their presence and the legitimate justifications for their presence on the Arab and Lebanese level are removed.

The issue of the Syrian forces in Lebanon is an issue that concerns only Lebanon, Syria and the Arabs. This issue will be discussed only within such a framework. President Hafiz al-Asad has explained on more than one occasion since 1977 that Syria does not seek to remain in Lebanon and that it is ready to withdraw its forces from Lebanon when the Lebanese agree on this. The Lebanese will, however, cannot be a free will under the canopy of the tanks and lances of the Israeli army, which is besieging the Lebanese Presidential Palace. Israel has invaded Lebanon but has failed to achieve its principal objectives and will never achieve them.

'KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES' SEE UPRISING IN JORDAN

JN161523 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Excerpt] Damascus, 16 Aug (SANA) -- Citing knowledgeable sources in Amman, the newspaper AL-BA'TH reports that the Jordanian regime is currently faced by a crisis -- the most serious crisis the regime has faced in the past 25 years -- which is bound to bring about its collapse in a very short time. The sources have based their calculations on some tangible facts felt by every Jordanian citizen and sensed by every visitor to Jordan, as well as by Arab and foreign diplomatic circles in Amman. In brief, these facts confirm that the Jordanian regime fears that an overwhelming popular uprising might erupt in denunciation of the defeatist stand the agent regime has adopted toward the bestial Zionist invasion of Lebanon.

The Jordanian regime also fears that a military coup might occur and that a progressive national government might emerge to effectively participate in confronting the Zionist enemy and the plots being hatched against our Arab nation.

According to the same sources, the paper says these fears have prompted the regime to organize loyal troops -- the popular army -- to protect it against any popular uprising or any coup attempt that might suddenly be carried out by the army.

The sources add that popular wrath is mounting continuously, particularly since the loyal security forces have brutally confronted all peaceful demonstrations staged by the Jordanian people in solidarity with the gallant resistance the Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese fighters are mounting against the Zionist invasion forces, specifically the demonstrations staged by students and women in Amman and those in Palestinian refugee camps.

REPORTAGE ON LEBANESE POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS

Obstacles Remaining Detailed

TA161258 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Senior officials here in Jerusalem this morning said that all obstacles to the PLO evacuation of Beirut have now been removed, with the sole exception of the demand by Israel for the release of the Israeli pilot and the return of the bodies of nine fallen soldiers. With the details here is Arye Heskell:

[Begin Heskell recording] However, the officials do insist that the question of the pilot and the bodies is an absolute must as far as Israel is concerned, and that the agreement could stand or fall by its implementation.

They point out that Israel has made two important concessions in order to make an agreement possible. It is agreed that 300 to 400 French soldiers of the multinational force should take up positions simultaneously with the departure of the first PLO men, it has also withdrawn its objection to a small United Nations presence. The French soldiers would move in immediately after the Lebanese Army takes up its positions.

The original Israeli stipulation that the multinational force move in only when the bulk of the evacuees have left still appears to apply to the American and the Italian contingents and the remainder of the French. The entire force, I understand, will number about 2,000 men.

The UN observers are a group of 10 to 12 officers, who have been in east Beirut since 1978. Israel's stipulation regarding the French and the UN officers is that they must not be deployed as a buffer between IDF forces and the departing terrorists, and that if the evacuation should stop or seriously slow down for any reason they would be withdrawn.

French agreement to this stipulation, I learned, was conveyed to Prime Minister Menahem Begin in the course of yesterday's Cabinet meeting by French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson by telephone. The Americans and the Italians had previously given similar undertakings and the stipulation is now expected to be included in the final agreement. The precise locations to be taken up by the UN officers is still being discussed by U.S. negotiator Philip Habib.

It is now expected that the evacuation will take place by way of the sea to Syria and possibly to Egypt, although this could change. The officials expect that the start of the evacuation will be at the end of this week or the beginning of next. However, this general mood of optimism is tempered by two notes of caution. One is that there are signs that the PLO seems to be hardening its position on some undisclosed points, and the other, perhaps, arising from this, Israel has not entirely ruled out the use of the military option if the need should arise. [end recording]

Habib Replies Awaited

TA170514 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] Israel is waiting this morning for replies from Philip Habib on unresolved issues in the agreement on the evacuation of terrorists from Beirut. The PLO is working with the Red Cross organization to bring about the release of several hundred terrorists in return for the release of pilot Aharon Ahi'az; however, an authoritative political source has again explained to our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that Israel rejects any deal with the PLO. According to information in Jerusalem, the terrorist evacuation will begin on Saturday, 21 August.

Accord on Syrian Force Reached

TA170744 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Aug 82 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] Israel has agreed that the Syrian force in besieged Beirut will leave the city with the heavy arms it possesses, including the remaining tanks and cannons. It also agreed that two brigades of the Palestinian Liberation Army [PLA], considered part of the Syrian deterrent force in Lebanon, will withdraw from Beirut within the framework of "redeployment" so that the Syrians will be able to station this force in the Al-Biqa' Valley in the future.

In order to facilitate the attainment of an agreement, Israel agreed to give up on several major points, especially those concerning the withdrawal of the Syrian force and the PLA units under Syrian command. One of the concessions is agreement that the Syrian 85th Brigade and the commando battalion located in Beirut will withdraw with all their arms, including heavy weapons.

As may be recalled, Israel would not allow this arrangement to include the terrorists, who will be able to leave with their personal arms only while their heavy arms will be transferred to the Lebanese Army. The Syrian force also has artillery and tanks. It is not impossible that they will take with them some of the heavy arms the Palestinians have to leave behind in accordance with the agreement.

Another concession concerns the withdrawal of the PLA, which is subject to Syrian command. The Hittin and Qadisiyah brigades are involved here. They came to Lebanon as part of an agreement with the Lebanese Government, as part of the Syrian deterrent force. According to the agreement, the Lebanese president is the person formally responsible for this army.

The conclusion is that these units will not formally withdraw but will "redeploy." This means, as the Syrians demanded, that there is no talk of canceling the status of the deterrent force; practically speaking, this means that the Syrians will be able to station this force and redeploy it in the Al-Biqa' Valley or in another area under their control in Lebanon.

The plan apparently is to stage a victory parade of the two Damascus brigades to acknowledge their success in withstanding the IDF; later they would be transferred back to Lebanon.

The agreement also stipulates that Syria will absorb about 2,600 terrorists. In this regard it is not clear where they will be stationed, and the Syrians, if they so wish, will be able to station them in the Al-Biqa' with the other terrorists in the region, or in the Tripoli region.

As for the namelist of terrorists, Israel agreed that it will be given to the Americans.

Informed circles say that these concessions will facilitate the evacuation of the terrorists and the Syrian forces from west Beirut and will help end this stage, but on the other hand it indicates that there are no reliable and efficient measures for supervising the full implementation of all articles of the agreement.

Details of PLO Evacuation

TA171030 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Aug 82 pp 1, 15

[Report by military correspondent Ya'akov Erez and by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpts] The commander of the Northern Command, Maj Gen Amir Drori, and the liaison officer for the multinational force, Brig Gen Eytan Baraq, will meet at 0900 this morning with the commanders of the multinational force in order to work out initial arrangements for the force's entry into Beirut and to finalize procedures concerning the functioning of the U.S., French and Italian Army units.

The meeting will be held in Beirut and will be attended by senior Lebanese Army officers. Representatives of the multinational force, including officers from the three countries, will arrive by helicopter from the U.S. aircraft carrier "Forrestal."

It is likely that units of the multinational force will be deployed outside west Beirut, apparently at the international airport or the port areas and from there soldiers will leave for their various tasks. It is estimated that the force will remain in Beirut about 30 days, until the terrorists have departed the city. Later the force -- which will number about 2,000 soldiers and officers -- will leave.

Contact procedures between the IDF and the force's command were worked out this morning and the IDF has already set up a special command subordinate to the Northern Command and including liaison officers and reserve soldiers who speak the languages of the units making up the force. Radio and land communication will be maintained between the special IDF command and the multinational force's command.

The IDF intends to help the force's soldiers in their deployment. Lebanese Army officers will participate in the contacts to be held today to set the work procedures of the multinational force.

The first units will arrive in Beirut by the end of the week.

Political correspondent Ilan Kfir reports:

Israel is preparing for the next stage -- the negotiations on ousting all foreign forces from Lebanon -- and has already turned to the United States to begin talks on this issue immediately following the completion of the terrorists' evacuation from west Beirut.

Israel is awaiting the election of a Lebanese president next week in order to open official negotiations on the signing of a peace treaty with Lebanon.

It was decided in Jerusalem that every effort should be made to ensure that the next stage of evacuating all foreign forces from Lebanon -- the Syrian Army, the terrorists from northern Lebanon and the IDF -- will be political and not military.

Israel has informed the United States and the Lebanese Government's representative in the course of the negotiations that it wants the next stage to be as short as possible and that the moment a comprehensive agreement on the evacuation of all foreign forces is achieved, the IDF will evacuate Lebanon.

In Beirut today, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and U.S. envoy Philip Habib will work out the last details of the terrorists' departure.

He will express Israel's opposition to an exchange of prisoners with the PLO in return for the release of the captured pilot, Aharon Ahi'az. Israel insists that the captured pilot and the bodies of nine IDF soldiers buried in west Beirut be transferred to Red Cross representatives and views this as part of the agreement.

In the meeting today, Sharon will receive from the U.S. mediator the replies of the PLO and the Lebanese Government to Israel's latest reservations on the terrorists' evacuation agreement and will discuss procedures for the deployment of the multinational force in west Beirut at the beginning of the evacuation. Israel will take steps to prevent any possibility of surprise by the terrorists at the last moment.

Political sources in Jerusalem last night were optimistic that the agreement has in fact been wrapped up and that the PLO will begin evacuating west Beirut at the end of the week, apparently on Saturday. At the last stage of the negotiations Israel accepted U.S. mediator Philip Habib's appeal to let the remnants of the Syrian force in west Beirut leave for Damascus along with their heavy arms, including a number of tanks and cannons. In contrast, the Palestinian units affiliated with Damascus will have to hand over their heavy arms to the Lebanese Army prior to the evacuation.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mr Samuel Lewis informed Defense Minister Sharon a few days ago that he would be a welcome guest in Washington at any time but that at the moment the U.S. administration will not hold senior-level talks with him on Lebanon except through Philip Habib.

Sharon, Kimche Continue Talks

TA171036 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Aug 82 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] U.S. mediator Philip Habib will apparently transmit today to Defense Minister Sharon and Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche the PLO leaders' replies on the matter of releasing the pilot, Aharon Ahi'az, and handing back the nine bodies of the dead Israeli soldiers. The meeting will be held in Beirut today.

Yesterday, too, Kimche held meetings in Beirut with the U.S. mediator and Lebanese figures.

In preparation for the discussion with Habib today, Sharon held a comprehensive discussion in his office yesterday with experts and senior IDF officers on the issue of the deployment of the multinational force in west Beirut. Technical details concerning Israel's position, especially on the location of the multinational force, were concluded in the discussion. In the discussion they will hold today, the Israeli representatives will insist on the release of the captured pilot and the return of the bodies of the nine Israeli soldiers killed in the Litani Operation. (Israel is not firmly insisting on the handover of the pilot to it directly and will settle for his transfer to the Red Cross, the Lebanese Army or the soldiers of the multinational force immediately upon their entry into west Beirut.

Additional points that will be discussed with Habib are the removal of the Syrian forces and the Palestinian Liberation Army at the same time that the 7,000 PLO members leave west Beirut.

Defense figures said yesterday that the air force bombings in west Beirut last Wednesday and Thursday -- regardless of the political implications, especially regarding U.S.-Israeli relations -- constituted the "last straw" from the point of view of the PLO's ultimate readiness to leave west Beirut. The bombings and shellings caused a great deal of demoralization among PLO members, who realized they would no longer be able to take such pressure. This is also the assessment of various Israeli analysts.

Sources on Syrian, PLO Moves

TA171234 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] There is no confirmation yet on the reported meeting between Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and U.S. envoy Philip Habib. A French news agency dispatch says that the meeting will take place some time today as final preparations are made for completing the agreement to evacuate the PLO. Habib is expected to go on to Damascus for talks there. On Israel's position today, Harley Braidman:

[Braidman -- live or recorded] Sources in Jerusalem said there has been no official response of any kind from the PLO to Israel's insistence that captured Israeli pilot Aharon Ahi'az be released and the bodies of nine soldiers returned. Sources said Israel demanded the pilot be released before the agreement on an evacuation be implemented. The issue still remained open and Israel hoped it was not going to be an issue.

As for the return of PLO men captured by Israel, the sources said this was a separate question. The Geneva Convention dealt with exchanges between countries at war. This applied to Syria and not to the PLO. So far, there is no formal plan for a PLO evacuation from west Beirut in written form, but it is hoped one will be finalized soon and if it remained unchanged, there was no need for formal Cabinet approval.

The sources added there was also a difference in emphasis between the PLO evacuation and the withdrawal of Syrian and Palestinian Liberation forces under Syrian control. The latter were considered an army and so they might be able to take out their heavy weapons. So far, there have been no Syrian formal approvals for a Syrian and PLA Army withdrawal. If there was no approval, Habib would deal with the matter either going to Damascus or holding contacts with the Syrians.

In any event, the sources said, the PLO had to leave Beirut and Lebanon. The others could go to the Al-Biqaa' Valley, Tripoli or other parts of Syrian-held Lebanon. In a second stage, there would have to be a withdrawal of foreign forces, otherwise Israeli troops would not leave. Israel hoped this would be achieved through diplomatic means. If the PLO returned to Lebanon through Syrian auspices, it would be regarded as a violation of their undertaking to leave Lebanon. Israel would hold the Syrians responsible for any terrorist or PLO activity, the sources said.

'Western Source' Comments

TA161814 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] It was reported from Beirut this evening that if all goes according to schedule, the first group of PLO members will leave by sea from the Beirut port to Larnaca in Cyprus, and from there the terrorists will be flown to the Arab countries.

According to a Western source close to the evacuation talks, the evacuated terrorists will sail in chartered ships that will be escorted by U.S. and Italian warships. The Beirut port, which is now partly controlled by the IDF and the Christian militia and partly by the PLO and the leftist militia, will be entirely transferred to the hands of the regular Lebanese Army before the start of the evacuation. At the very hour that the evacuated terrorists reach the port the Vanguard French unit, which numbers 250 soldiers of the multinational force, will land there.

According to this source, the Larnaca port in Cyprus was chosen as halfway point instead of the Al-'Aqaba port due to the difference in distances. Larnaca is about 200 km away from Lebanon while Al-'Aqaba is over 1,000 km away. This source says that for the time being it is not clear how many terrorists will leave in this manner and how many will depart for Syria by land.

PAT VIEWS PLO EVACUATION, SYRIAN DEPLOYMENT

TA170748 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0736 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] Minister of Industry and Commerce Gid'on Pat believes that groups from the terrorist organizations will remain in Beirut under another guise even after the terrorists have been removed from Beirut. Israel will work against them with the means at its disposal but the responsibility, of course, will fall on the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese civilian establishment, Minister Pat said. In a conversation with our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz, Minister Gid'on Pat added that Israel would not agree to a war of attrition in the Al-Biqa' Valley.

Our correspondent in the north also reports that the UNIFIL commander of southern Lebanon, General Callaghan, appealed to IDF figures this morning with a request to explain to the UN personnel why movement in southern Lebanon had been banned. UNIFIL sources are demanding that a meeting be held on this issue with Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan.

KIMCHE OVERSEES IDF PULLBACK FROM PARLIAMENT AREA

TA161940 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Interview with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche by correspondent Ehud Ya'ari with preceding Ya'ari statement -- date and place not given -- both recorded]

[Excerpt] Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche this afternoon came to see with his own eyes the implementation of yesterday's decision to withdraw from the parliament area and the Mansur Palace which had been seized by IDF soldiers. Dozens of refugees from west Beirut have been waiting for permission to leave on foot for east Beirut. The entire area will have to be properly guarded for the vote on Thursday in order to prevent anybody from attributing to Israel blame for not holding or delaying the session, or transferring it to another building.

This is the parliament building, the Mansur Palace, where the next Lebanese President will be elected on Thursday.

[Question] Mr Kimche, what does the evacuation of the parliament area mean from Israel's point of view?

[Kimche] As you know, the Lebanese wanted to convene parliament next week. They are now preparing the parliament. They want to have a special parliament session next Thursday as a first round of the elections. We, of course, always want to aid in such matters.

[Question] Do we have any special expectations from the voting session on Thursday?

[Answer] We do not intervene in Lebanese domestic politics. We are not trying to influence or intervene in matters.

[Question] The delegates are now meeting with Parliament Speaker Kamal Al-As'ad. Some of them claimed that not all of the security conditions necessary to hold the session in the Mansur Palace have been fulfilled yet. Is it possible that we will make another gesture affecting the area around the building?

[Answer] We will have to check this. We will have to hear what they want. In the meantime, as I said, we want to aid them without intervening. We will aid if we can. We will have to hear what they are asking for. We will check matters and decide.

[Question] The marks of the war are clearly visible in the building and in the meantime the Lebanese Army soldiers are waiting for the parliament delegates to come.

NE'EMAN VISITS BEIRUT, COMMENTS ON ELECTIONS

TA161944 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Science and Development Minister Yuval Ne'eman said today that he hopes Pierre al-Jumayyil will be elected Lebanon's president on Thursday because this will be both in Lebanon's and Israel's interest. Ne'eman said this while he was touring Beirut and our correspondent reports that this the first time a Cabinet minister has expressed himself publicly on this matter.

PERES: DEBATE ON ISRAEL'S FUTURE MUST RESUME

TA161046 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0525 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by party affairs correspondent Amnon Nadav -- place, date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Is any change to be expected in the Alignment's policy toward the government, toward the Likud?

[Answer] I think that the time has come to reopen the great and burning controversy over the direction in which Israel is heading. I think that the Likud is leading us into a dead-end, in which we will be unable to get along with ourselves, our neighbors and the world. As long as there were battles and war, we toned down the criticism. When the problem of Beirut is settled, we must resume the big historic argument.

In my view, what the Begin government is proposing leaves Israel no option for progress toward lasting peace with all our neighbors on the one hand, and on the other, endangers Israel's existence as a Jewish state in fact and a democratic state in spirit. If there are 2 million Arabs in Israel and 3.3 million Jews, this will not be the state to which we aspired -- not in its system of relations and not in its essence. There are those who, in fact, connect the entire move in Lebanon with what is being done in Judaea and Samaria or with what they want to do in Judaea and Samaria. We are not afraid of this argument; we shall enter it with raised banners and with a clear voice.

[Question] In other words, a sharpening of the Labor Party's political and social positions opposite the Likud is expected?

[Answer] No. This is not a matter of sharpening positions. We are not speaking here of tactics. Among the Jewish people, in the State of Israel, there is a burning, historic argument. It cannot be escaped, nor blurred...

[Question -- interrupting] That was, in your view, muted during the war?

[Answer] In my view, during the war we all wanted, first of all, that the war end and that we win. It is not a matter of its having been muted. This argument has not been blunted.

However, in time of war we wanted to demonstrate unity as much as possible. We all hoped that it would be a short war; no one imagined that this war would last for 9 weeks and see such painful and outrageous events, like the 11-hour-long bombardment, which, it has emerged, was carried out without a Cabinet decision.

These are difficult and grave events. The controversy itself has not stopped for a minute. Differences of opinion were muted as long as the firing continued.

ALIGNMENT KNESSET FACTION HOLDS 'STORMY SESSION'

TA161026 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] The Alignment Knesset faction held a stormy session last night at which mutual accusations were hurled about the functioning of the opposition during the war.

Our correspondent in the Knesset has learned details of the session. Party Chairman Shim'on Peres rejected a proposal that the defense minister's dismissal be demanded. Peres said that the Labor Party, if it made such a demand, would be serving the purposes of the prime minister who is trying to impose exclusive responsibility for the embroglio in Beirut on the defense minister. If someone should resign, Shim'on Peres said, it is the prime minister himself.

MK Yosef Sarid criticized Shim'on Peres, claiming that his positions as presented at the start of the operation were unclear and failed to imply that the Alignment was vigorously opposed to the second stage of the war. Sarid's statements created a storm and some Alignment members accused him of attacking the opposition instead of the government.

MK Mikha'el Bar-Zohar left the session as a sign of protest and for a while there followed harsh verbal exchanges. At the end of the session it was decided not to give journalists a report on it.

PERES DEPARTS FOR MEETING WITH MITTERRAND

TA160750 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0705 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Excerpts] Ben-Gurion Airport, 16 Aug (ITIM) -- Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres left this morning to meet French President Francois Mitterrand for an urgent discussion of the situation in our region.

Speaking to an ITIM correspondent at the airport, Peres said before his departure that the French president is a friend of Israel and that it is senseless to turn him into a nonfriend.

Peres plans in the near future to visit most of the Jewish communities in Western Europe in order to present the Labor Party's position on the situation in Israel and our region.

Peres declined to confirm that he had been invited by Mitterrand for a discussion in order to clarify points in France's position vis-a-vis Israel. He merely reemphasized that Mitterrand is a friend of Israel and the Jews and that this remains unchanged despite the present controversy between him and Israel.

AFP: IDF OFFICERS KIDNAPPED BY 'EXTREMISTS'

NC141409 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 14 Aug 82

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 14 (AFP) -- The Italian Red Brigades and the West German Baader Meinhof group said today in a communique that they had "kidnapped" five Israeli officers whom they were holding to be exchanged for two members of the extremist groups allegedly arrested in Lebanon ten days ago.

According to the handwritten communique, received by Agence France-Presse here, the Israeli Mossad intelligence services and Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon have "only two days" to free the arrested members of the groups in exchange for the officers, who are being "held in east Beirut."

The communique, which could not be authenticated, warned that if this demand was not met, "the bodies of the officers" will be sent in a car to an east Beirut hotel.

It did not identify the Israeli officers, describing them only as a general, three colonels and a captain, nor did it give the names of the members of the Red Brigades and/or the Baader-Meinhof group who were allegedly arrested by the Mossad as they were preparing to leave Lebanon for Cyprus.

There have been no previous known published reports of the disappearance of Israeli officers in Lebanon, but the document received today said it was "the second and last communique" on the affair.

The communique added that both the Mossad and a senior diplomat at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut "know the procedures" for exchanging the prisoners.

Attached to the document, written in Arabic in red ink and signed with a red star, was a fragment of an Italian 1,000 lire banknote.

IDF Denies Claim

NC142100 Paris AFP in English 1725 GMT 14 Aug 82

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, Aug 14 (AFP) -- The Israeli army has denied that any of its officers are listed missing in Lebanon following claims in Beirut today by the Italian Red Brigades and West German Baader-Meinhof group that they have kidnapped five Israeli officers.

A spokesman for the army here today said that no officers had been reported missing in Lebanon up until yesterday.

Observers here added that it was highly unlikely that top-ranking officers could have been kidnapped in east Beirut without either journalists or friends of the missing leaking news of the disappearances.

WATER, ELECTRICITY TO W. BEIRUT STILL CUT OFF

TA151616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] Correspondents report that although the shooting has died down in Beirut, the condition of residents there continues to be bad due to the continued cut-off of water and electricity supplies. Nevertheless, carts loaded with fruits and vegetables from the south began appearing on street corners today -- but their prices were exorbitant, up to four times the regular price. One of the water engineers told an AP correspondent that he telephoned the pumping station in east Beirut, which promised that the taps would be turned on. Nevertheless, water is not reaching west Beirut. It is noted in west Beirut that the cut-off in the water flow has lasted 3 weeks already and only once was water supplied for 2 consecutive days.

UN OBSERVERS NOT ALLOWED TO MOVE TO WEST BEIRUT

TA170805 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Aug 82 p 2

[Text] Sunday's Cabinet decision to permit the 10 UN observers permanently stationed in Beirut to observe the cease-fire instead of a larger force of 60 as envisaged by the UN Security Council has remained a dead letter.

The 10, who left their office in west Beirut because it was in the thick of the fighting and took up positions in an army camp in east Beirut, have not been allowed to take up positions yet in west Beirut, THE JERUSALEM POST learns.

Two of the 10 got through to their office in west Beirut yesterday for a short while to inspect damage.

UN spokesman Hugo Rocha told THE POST last night: "Our men in Beirut have been filing reports to New York all the time, but as long as the Israeli authorities do not let them operate in west Beirut again, their scope is extremely limited."

IDF SOLDIERS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST LEBANON WAR

TA151652 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1625 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, 15 Aug (ITIM) -- This afternoon about a hundred members of the "Soldiers Against Silence" movement, protesting the continuation of the war in Lebanon, demonstrated in front of the prime minister's office.

The demonstrators carried signs calling for the resignation of Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, who they say is directly responsible for the war. They also carried signs demanding the establishment of a commission of inquiry. During the demonstration, the speakers, including Interior Minister Burg's son Avraham Burg, emphasized what they defined as the "immoral character" of this war in comparison with previous wars, due to the massive harm to civilians. All the speakers emphasized that despite their opposition to the war they do not intend to refuse to carry out any order.

SYRIANS, IDF FORTIFY IN EASTERN, CENTRAL SECTORS

TA131538 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 13 Aug 82

[Report from the north by Menahem Horowitz -- recorded]

[Excerpt] The Syrians are continuing to build a new line of positions in the Al-Biqa' and to improve their positions. The Syrians have brought in and put to use much new military equipment against our forces in this sector. The Syrians, it has emerged, are taking advantage of the cease-fire to continue to increase their strength in the central and eastern sectors and to harass our forces.

IDF soldiers are also continuing to set up a new line of fortifications opposite the Syrians in the eastern sector. Our soldiers are building new positions suitable for our soldiers' stay in Lebanon in the winter as well.

Military 'Circles' Comment

TA150830 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Aug 82 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Mordekhay Barqay]

[Excerpts] Military circles have assessed that even if the cease-fire is maintained around Beirut, the terrorists behind Syrian deployments in Lebanon will heat up the eastern sector and the Syrians will not hamper this.

The main Syrian deployment in Lebanon is in the Al-Biqa' Valley region. This deployment is close to two divisions and is situated in such a fashion that part of it is on the Syrian side of the border.

There are some 2,000 terrorists behind that deployment, including the main bulk of the terrorist concentration that was active in "Fatahland."

Another Syrian deployment zone of more than a brigade is around the Matn mountain ridge. In the main, this is the Syrian force that was driven away from the Beirut-Damascus highway by the IDF's central sector forces between 20 and 25 June. Here, too, there are at least some hundreds of terrorists, most of them from the Beirut area.

IRC RECEIVES SYRIAN STATEMENT ON ISRAELI CAPTIVES

TA151946 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1928 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] Here is a report we have just received: The IDF spokesman announces that the International Red Cross [IRC] says it received a statement today by the Syrian authorities that the Syrians are holding two Israelis captive and the body of a pilot. The names of the captives held by the Syrians are: Gil Fogel, an air force member, and Arye Liberman from Holon. The name of the dead soldier, whose body is in the Syrians hands, is Aharon Katz, an air force member.

The IDF spokesman notes he announced a while ago that there are eight IDF soldiers missing in the eastern sector and the assumption is that they are apparently being held captive by the Syrians. In question are six missing infantry soldiers and the two crew members of a Phantom shot down on 24 July 1982.

The eight missing soldiers do not include the driver of the container vehicle who crossed the lines by mistake on 13 August and who is also being held by the Syrians. The IDF representatives visited the families of the eight missing soldiers.

The IDF spokesman adds that in July 1982 the Israeli press and Syrian television publicized that the Jewish community in Damascus buried four IDF soldiers in a Jewish cemetery. The names of three of them were transmitted by the Syrians to the IRC, but a check by the IDF authorities reveals that the names of the three are names of living soldiers serving in the IDF. In this context, the IDF spokesman notes that Israel will continue to make every effort to learn the fate of the missing men.

IDF General Comments

TA160558 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Excerpt] The head of the IDF Manpower Branch, Maj Gen Moshe Nativ, has expressed the hope that the Syrians will be interested in an exchange of prisoners and that it would not take more than 6 months, as was the case after the Yom Kippur war. In a talk with our military correspondent Shmuel Tal, Major General Nativ said that at the end of the Yom Kippur war the Syrians delayed the relay of information and used the matter of the prisoners to wring concessions from Israel. However, he hopes that the process will be shorter now because we hold a large number of Syrian prisoners, some of whom are pilots and those with high ranks.

REACTIONS TO REAGAN NEWS CONFERENCE REPORTED

TA150831 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Aug 82 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Tuvya Mendelson]

[Excerpt] The assessment that followed President Reagan's news conference yesterday was that the main dispute between Jerusalem and Washington over the military operations in west Beirut revolves around the extent of reaction to the PLO's cease-fire violations.

It looks as though the United States believes that the Israeli reaction was in no way proportional to the cease-fire violations, at least not on Thursday.

Observers in Jerusalem have also assessed that what Reagan said at his news conference was intended to make it unequivocally clear to the PLO that despite the great tension between Israel and the United States on Thursday -- the telephone calls plus the sharp Reagan message to the prime minister notwithstanding -- the U.S. position has not altered and is identical to the Israeli position with regard to the need to remove the PLO from west Beirut. The Americans, just like the Israelis, are interested in arranging the PLO evacuation from west Beirut through political means, which explains the emphasis on the need to observe the cease-fire.

CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS 'ARAFAT IN W. BEIRUT

TA151110 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Aug 82 pp 1, 7

[Text] Interviewed by Israeli correspondent Amnon Kapeliuk, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said that his recognition of all the UN resolutions pertaining to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict also includes recognition of the UN resolution on the establishment of the State of Israel.

The interview, which lasted for about 2 hours, was conducted at night in an underground shelter in west Beirut by candlelight, with 'Arafat flanked by a team of aides. Kapeliuk was sent to west Beirut by the French newspaper LE MONDE after 'Arafat informed the newspaper that he would be prepared to grant an interview to an Israeli reporter.

Kapeliuk asked: If a Palestinian state is established in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, would you not wish to "go on" to capture all of Israel?

'Arafat: "This is nonsense. I do not understand this argument. Israel is the strongest military element in the Middle East. Is there room to fear a Palestinian state that would require 20 years to stand on its feet?"

'Arafat avoided giving a direct answer regarding the Palestinian charter, and said that the charter includes various elements that need to be clarified. After consulting with his advisers, he suggested holding an Israeli-Palestinian symposium after the war where "all the issues that require clarification will be discussed."

Kapeliuk asked the PLO leader: Did you not make mistakes in your attitude toward Israel? 'Arafat replied: "Yes. We did not know how to explain ourselves to the Israelis. We erred in our information."

Last week Kapeliuk spent 5 days in besieged west Beirut and met with 'Arafat, with his deputy Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], with Nayif Hawatimah and with other top PLO leaders and Lebanese officials. He toured the city when the bombings reached their peak and always identified himself as an Israeli.

'SOURCE': WHITE HOUSE 'STAGE-MANAGED' CONFRONTATION

TA170732 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Aug 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Richardson]

[Text] A senior government source in Jerusalem yesterday suggested that the White House, to a large extent, stage-managed last Thursday's confrontation between President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Menahem Begin in order to convey the incorrect impression that Israel had succumbed to American pressure when it halted air strikes in Beirut.

Government displeasure at the way the series of presidential and diplomatic contacts was portrayed, particularly in the American press, emerged during yesterday's Cabinet session. The prime minister read the exchange of letters between himself and the President. In the discussion that ensued, Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon complained that the impression conveyed in the news media had immediately bolstered the morale of the PLO forces trapped in Beirut.

According to the source, the Cabinet decided to halt the air strikes last Thursday afternoon during a meeting in the Knesset independently of messages and complaints -- let alone threats -- from the American President.

U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis had indeed called the prime minister's office at about 2 p.m. to complain about the intense air raids but had not conveyed any threat. He also informed the prime minister's office that special U.S. envoy Philip Habib was unable to continue his negotiations in Beirut that afternoon because the air and artillery bombardment endangered his aides who were due to enter west Beirut for continued contacts with the Lebanese Government.

"Lewis' call in fact hindered the government in making a decision to stop the air raids -- which it was already and independently inclined to do -- because the minister thought it might appear that Israel was bowing to American pressure," the source said.

The Cabinet ordered an end to the air strikes soon after 3 p.m. and the prime minister then went to rest in a room reserved for him in the Knesset.

Government officials immediately informed the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and the Israeli Embassy in Washington of the government's decision and were sure that this information was conveyed to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz well before Reagan's telephone call to Begin.

It apparently took more time to inform the air force. Reports from Beirut at the time indicated that the air raids were only curtailed shortly before 5 p.m.

Begin was wakened by the President's call shortly before 6 p.m. The source termed as "difficult to understand" reports claiming that the White House could not trace the prime minister for more than an hour.

The conversation between the two men was "uneasy and sharp," the official confirmed, but Begin did inform Reagan that the Cabinet had called off the air force two hours before. Reagan reportedly asked for a halt to the artillery barrage as well and Begin, after consulting the army, called him back half an hour later and assured the President that the cease-fire was being observed absolutely.

Later that same evening, close to midnight, the U.S. Embassy again delivered a presidential message repeating complaints about the air raids and the tone of the earlier telephone call. "There was nothing at all operative in that message," the source said, and described its delivery so late at night when it should have been obvious that Begin would be resting as "something of a chutzpah." Begin was not awakened and saw the message the next morning.

The subsequent publication of an official White House photograph showing the President talking on the telephone to Begin with Shultz by his side made it clear that "the whole thing was a set-up to show that Reagan's message was behind the Cabinet's decision," the source complained. "That's ugly," he said.

MA'ARIV'S MOSHE ZAQ COMMENTS ON WAR, NEGOTIATIONS

TA161240 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Aug 82 p 5

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The Agreement -- and the End"]

[Text] Operation Peace for Galilee, which was to have ended in 7 days, goes on. Only on the 70th day of war does it seem that it is at last coming to an end, in the form of an agreement to remove the terrorists from Beirut, achieved through Ambassador Philip Habib.

Could the war have been ended sooner?

Would it have been possible to destroy the terrorists' Beirut headquarters, precluding the need for a U.S. mediator?

Could better terms have been reached in the negotiations with Philip Habib?

And would U.S. mediation have led to the removal of the PLO invaders from Beirut without the Israeli military pressure?

These four questions and many others will be asked at the end of the war, an end that appears to be on the horizon this week if there is no last minute upheaval.

First, would the U.S. mediator have reached an agreement without the IDF military pressure on west Beirut?

To this there is not only the "Kissinger doctrine" of political negotiations aided by military pressure, there is also written evidence by THE NEW YORK TIMES correspondent in west Beirut, who interviewed a PLO officer who had only 10 days previously declared that he would never abandon Beirut and now expressed his agreement to leave it as soon as possible. THE NEW YORK TIMES correspondent describes the change that has taken place in the PLO leadership as a result of the heavy Israeli shelling. When even this heavy shelling did not lead to the intervention of Arab armies, 'Arafat decided to fold his tents and abandon Beirut.

And this evidence by THE NEW YORK TIMES correspondent in west Beirut was provided before the heavy bombardment of Beirut by the air force on 12 August.

Could the terrorists' headquarters in Beirut have been eliminated, thereby precluding the need for U.S. mediation?

The answer is: militarily, yes. Politically, no.

The political price demanded of Israel in return for U.S. agreement to the IDF entry into west Beirut was such that the current government could never have accepted it. It could not have "paid" for an entry into west Beirut by giving up the new settlements in Judaea and Samaria; it could not have paid with a concession of Israel's sole status in east Jerusalem in return for west Beirut.

In other words, the Government of Israel could not have made the gesture of agreeing to the participation of the inhabitants of east Jerusalem in elections for the autonomy council, as the Egyptians are demanding in the Israeli-U.S.-Egyptian negotiations on the implementation of the Camp David agreement.

Since this is the case, Israel was forced to accept U.S. mediation to remove the terrorists instead of at once, at the beginning of the war, entering Beirut.

Could better terms have been obtained in the negotiations with Philip Habib?

The answer is: perhaps. If the diplomatic negotiations had been conducted modestly, without any of the possible military pressure. If we had not been constantly confused with ultimatum-like demands for declarations of "flexibility."

The publicity emanating from the Cabinet session on the Israeli conditions made the negotiations more difficult and, furthermore, it ultimately lowered Israel's image in the eyes of the terrorists.

It is true that people in the United States like it very much when Israel announces that it is making its positions "more flexible." This helps the Israeli image. But the terrorists besieged in Beirut interpret this differently. They interpreted the Israeli concessions regarding the date of the multinational force as a sign of Israeli weakness.

Furthermore, when, in the midst of the military pressure on west Beirut, before the latest push, Israeli Cabinet ministers were forced to give a striptease show which the terrorists interpreted as a demonstration of weakness, they could not, in the following session, do other than take into consideration the situation created.

Under these conditions, when Israel was unable to use more of its military pressure and when signs of weakness were being revealed inside the Cabinet and hesitations were increasing, the Cabinet had no choice but to concede on matters that from now on will be called "technical," such as the UN observers, the deployment of the multinational force, the official list of the terrorists.

The last question, and perhaps it is the most important, is: Could the war have been ended earlier?

Some people claim that if we had stopped at the 45-km line from the Israeli border right away, in the first week of the war, it would have ended.

It is difficult to see how. What would have been the apparatus that would have helped disengage the forces? What would have led the PLO to lay down its arms?

In any event, from the U.S. aspect, the war could not have ended other than with a "chord" of appeal to and warning to Israel. This is why it did not end a week earlier, when the United States demanded that Israel withdraw to the 1 August lines and permit the stationing of UN observers. And Israel replied in the negative. The United States waited for the right time and this was later found. As the MA'ARIV correspondent in Washington pointed out, "A watch over what was going on among the circle of decisionmakers in Israel showed Washington that there was no general agreement on the bombing of Beirut and there were sharp differences of opinion on this issue between the defense minister and his ministerial colleagues."

It was only after Washington was certain that the Government of Israel had decided to stop the bombardments that it published the sharp call to Israel and this made it possible for it to receive all the credit in the Arab world for its intervention. From the U.S. viewpoint, this was, then, the first chance to end the war.

And even from the Israeli viewpoint it was a convenient time: The vigorous U.S. call stopped the PLO from the vain boast that Israel was incapable of beating the PLO as it had beaten the Arab armies. The U.S. intervention, even though it came after the decision by the Government of Israel, created the impression that the IDF was about to beat the PLO had it not been for the vigorous intervention by the U.S. President. At this point Israel and the United States agreed upon an arrangement for the evacuation of the terrorists, on terms that could have been obtained earlier.

MINISTER SHARON ON LEBANON, RESIGNATION RUMORS

TA140931 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 14 Aug 82

[Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon interviewed by Razi Barqay 13 August at the defense minister's office in Tel Aviv -- recorded]

[Text] At the end of the week Ari'el Sharon became a target for attacks from all sides. The United States, in an angry telephone conversation, said that unless Sharon immediately stopped the air force bombings of Beirut, the negotiations would end. Within the Cabinet there was unprecedented criticism of Sharon and even the prime minister himself, who until now had defended the defense minister in every forum, now initiated a proposal removing Sharon's authority to put the air force into action without approval. Begin asked in the Cabinet what the usefulness of the latest bombings was if they jeopardized the political gains. His deputy, David Levi, claimed that something very fundamental had been eroded here: our authority as a government. The people are confused; the government is confused; our decisions have been violated by the defense minister. Dr Yosef Burg complained that what happened in Beirut, with the approval of the defense minister, is torpedoing the political settlement.

For the first time in a long time, the defense minister remained in a minority, and some ministers claimed afterward that what happened this week requires his immediate resignation. Yesterday I interviewed the defense minister at his office in Tel Aviv, and the first question I asked was if he intends to resign. The defense minister answered: by no means whatsoever.

[Begin recording] [Sharon] I do not deal with gossip. I deal with the essential subject: The essential subject in my view is the evacuation of the terrorists from Beirut. I have been dealing with this subject for a long time now and I deal with this subject day and night. The wars of the Jews do not interest me. I do not aspire to ingratiate myself with this or that person or with this or another group. In my view, the most crucial thing is the principle of our national security.

[Question] In any case, you were severely attacked in the Cabinet session, an almost unprecedented attack. It was said of you, for example, that you activated the air force without authority. Do these statements make you think that you no longer enjoy the confidence of the Cabinet and that of the prime minister?

[Answer] I do not intend to resign. I acted exactly in accordance with the Cabinet's decision that in response to the terrorists' cease-fire violations the IDF will react by sea, land and air. And this is what we did. Our soldiers -- and this is the Cabinet's position -- are entitled to all the defense they require in carrying out their missions. The activation of the air force, first and foremost, is to ensure the safety of our soldiers who are on the front and who will be there for what I hope is a short time until the evacuation of the terrorists, which in my view, is drawing ever nearer.

[Question] The prime minister himself said in the Cabinet session that the latest military actions have caused damage and have not accelerated the political negotiations.

[Answer] The action during the last 2 weeks has caused the negotiations to speed up and a complete change in the conditions for uprooting the terrorists from Beirut. There is no similarity between the conditions that the terrorists sought to achieve 2 weeks ago and those they are ready to accept today. I would like to concentrate particularly on the last 2 days, when there was very intensive action by us with respect to them, and the view that was expressed that these actions delay or retard the achievement of the settlement.

What is interesting is that last night, for the first time, the terrorists were presented a plan saying that part of the multinational force would not enter on the day of their departure, but rather after most of them had left Beirut.

[Question] Do you maintain that this progress occurred due to our bombing?

[Answer] Definitely, yes.

[Question] Do you contend that ministers in the Cabinet do not understand the usefulness of these military actions? Some of them at least have said that these actions have caused great damage. There was an angry telephone call from the U.S. President.

[Answer] I do not make any contentions against ministers. I have not made contentions against them. I do not deal at all with this gossip and agitation. I deal with only one thing, that appears to me at this moment the most important thing, and that is the uprooting of the terrorists from Beirut.

As to the angry reaction of the United States, we all have deep appreciation of the United States. I personally hold the United States and the U.S. President in deep esteem. I heard this morning the various assessments about the supposed severing of ties between Israel and the United States. I think that these assessments are hasty. The entire system of ties must be viewed.

[Question] Still, there was a U.S. threat to end Habib's mission, to withdraw from the political negotiations if the bombardment did not stop immediately.

[Answer] There is no need for panic, no need for panic. Philip Habib wants to succeed in the negotiations. The United States has an interest in the success of the negotiations. The United States, as a result of our action, has received on a silver platter a tremendous achievement vis-a-vis the Soviets, whose helplessness was revealed in the face of the present developments in the Middle East. The United States, in my view, does not rejoice at giving up these achievements, and therefore, no one wants to end the negotiations.

[Question] From what you say, I understand that the U.S. President's threat was, in fact, not serious.

[Answer] When we weigh Israel's national interests, we must be ready also to stand firm in the face of friends, even if their anger increases occasionally and this cannot hurt, even in the slightest, our attitude toward them and our deep esteem for them. We embarked on this war [words indistinct] recall what are we dealing with, what are we discussing -- we embarked on a war whose aim is the elimination of terrorism, the terrorism that has been plaguing us for years -- the elimination of the terrorism in Lebanon, which had become the focus of international terrorism. And this mission must be completed. And if for the sake of this mission -- and I would say beyond providing defense for our soldiers -- if for the sake of this mission terrorist headquarters must be attacked, they must be attacked.

[Question] And if tens, perhaps hundreds of civilians are killed in this attack?

[Answer] We concentrated our attacks on areas in which there were almost no civilians.

[Question] In other words, the reports from abroad of many civilian casualties are lies?

[Answer] Those reports are intentional lies. We have known this for a long time. This has been reported in the Cabinet, in other committees at which I appear, that these reports are intentional reports -- and we must speak the truth. We have an interest in hitting terrorist headquarters and the terrorist leaders. Everyone who desires peace and security must know that one of the main conditions for the achievement of such a peace -- true peace -- and for the maintenance of such peace is that there be maximal hits against the terrorist leaders.

[Question] Mr Sharon, your statements contradict reports and pictures we have received from television in the United States and all over the world, and the pictures are very grim ones, of wounded civilians.

[Answer] There is no doubt that the numbers that were presented were exaggerated. All the same, it is certain that civilians too have been hurt. However, we have not hit civilians intentionally. And I say, if civilians have been hurt -- and they have been -- these civilians have been hurt actually because of their being hostages in the terrorists' hands.

[Question] Let us return, with your permission, to the Cabinet session and decision. The Cabinet, in fact, decided to reduce your authority. From now on the air force will be activated only with the approval of the prime minister and with that of the Cabinet. Do you not feel confidence in you as defense minister has been lost?

[Answer] The Cabinet has not reduced my authority. I am a member of the Cabinet. I act in accordance with the Cabinet's decisions. The Cabinet's decisions fixed exactly what sorts of actions are to be used. Until today, also up until today, it was kept informed, the prime minister was...

[Question] In every case?

[Answer] I cannot say now that the prime minister was informed of each sortie. Also, there is no need for this. However, the prime minister was informed, also up until today, of every exceptional action that was and is taken and all the actions were carried out in accordance with the Cabinet's decisions. The Cabinet has not changed in the slightest the line it has taken that says the IDF soldiers will not be subject to fire without there being a reaction to that fire.

[Question] You say that your authority was not reduced following this Cabinet session. So what was so difficult, so harsh in the session -- those are things you said yourself to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee?

[Answer] I would not like to deal with gossip from the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. I regard very gravely the fact that matters are leaked from the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee even before one concludes the discussion in the committee, and sometimes when I leave, following the conclusion of my statements to the committee, I hear on the radio what I said a few minutes earlier.

[Question] But was the Cabinet session indeed difficult with respect to you?

[Answer] There was a Cabinet session, in which, I would say, I presented the way in which, according to my view, one must act, the principles in which I believe. And I say: I also, I also want to reach a political agreement. What could be more important than reaching a political agreement -- and there is in this an achievement of the first order -- than witnessing departure of the terrorists, and in fact, achieving one of the main aims you set for yourself, and which is likely to influence Israel's peace and that of the region for many years.

However, I definitely think that because of my post and responsibility that we must not deviate from the principles we have determined. And my function is to bring this before the Cabinet.

[Question] And was there a deviation from the principles you determined?

[Answer] I did not say that. I said that my function is to bring up matters, and the function of the Cabinet is to examine and decide. When I bring matters before the Cabinet -- and thus I have done since becoming a Cabinet minister more than 5 years ago -- I have never been influenced by considerations of trying to ingratiate myself with this or that person or of my appearing acceptable or unacceptable. My approach is concerned with the matter at hand only -- and thus one should act in my view, and I have acted thus.

[Question] Mr Sharon, you said there are ministers today who are running to cut the ribbon and harvest the fruits of the political negotiations. What were you referring to?

[Answer] I am not certain if I made such a remark. I propose that those concentrating their efforts on a war against me, and are busy with the matter of whether I should resign or not, should pitch in for the last effort required to evacuate the terrorists from Beirut. And I want to calm them: This historic achievement will be so great that all will be able to share in it. [end recording]

CHIEF OF STAFF EYTAN INTERVIEWED ON LEBANON

TA131816 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 13 Aug 82

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan by David Margalit on the "Weekly Column" program -- date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Mr Chief of Staff, after yesterday's Cabinet session, would you say that IDF soldiers are more vulnerable to terrorist attacks than before?

[Answer] When I am invited, I participate in Cabinet sessions and I have no comments or remarks to make on what is being discussed there.

[Question] Then would you say that IDF soldiers today are receiving the best protection the IDF can provide?

[Answer] Anyone who presents the issue like this separates, I believe, events in the area from reality; or, conversely, one could think that someone is trying to divorce the truth from what happens in the field. This is not an issue at all -- whether the IDF soldiers are less or more protected because of such or other actions. This is not the question.

[Question] Then what is?

[Answer] The question is different: It is a political question, a matter of an arrangement, a question of relations and pressures, a matter of establishing an objective and how to achieve it.

[Question] But practically speaking -- if you wish, without referring to what you said -- would you say that IDF soldiers are getting the best protection possible?

[Answer] Yes. The answer is affirmative.

[Question] The Cabinet wants to decide on activating the air force. Has the political echelon presented problems for you in that respect?

[Answer] The political echelon never presents problems for me, and it has the right -- moreover, it is its duty -- to decide on anything and supervise, in the way it sees fit, the army's activities.

[Question] Has this not made your job as chief of staff more difficult?

[Answer] No.

[Question] In other words, it is possible to say that the entire argument over whether or not IDF soldiers are currently less or more defended than before the Cabinet session is not even relevant, and the entire contention is not topical?

[Answer] You are repeating this question about the protection of IDF soldiers like a parakeet. This issue has never been broached, nor is this the problem.

[Question] But it was raised yesterday by the defense minister.

[Answer] I do not know what you know about what happens at Cabinet sessions, even though you are not there and I am.

[Question] Was it not raised by the defense minister at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting?

[Answer] I said that you are the one who participates in Cabinet sessions, not me, which is why you are knowledgeable. I never address myself to what happens in Cabinet sessions, nor do I leak information from there or make any comments on any session I participate in.

[Question] If so, and if you say that IDF soldiers are properly protected as far as you are concerned, then, without referring to Cabinet sessions, would you say that all the IDF moves in Beirut today were intended solely for the defense of the IDF soldiers?

[Answer] I think you are a sick parakeet. Not just a parakeet, which mimicks others, but a sick parakeet.

[Question] What is your diagnosis?

[Answer] This is a parakeet that has been institutionalized -- maybe in Mazra' [mental institution in Israel]. You are constantly repeating this thing. If you want the entire interview to revolve around this question -- fine, I will give you answers to irrelevant questions. So leave this alone and proceed to other matters.

[Question] So maybe you will still answer me: Have all the IDF moves been made to defend the IDF's soldiers?

[Answer] This is not exclusively the problem. If you have no other, better question or if you have no way to move on to the next question, then let me say: Have a good Sabbath and you can leave.

[Question] Why do you think this is not an important question?

[Answer] Because what the IDF does in Lebanon is to implement the objectives of the war as set by the Cabinet, and we are not seeking protection for an individual soldier here or there.

[Question] In other words, all the IDF's operations now are reactions to the terrorists' violations of the cease-fire?

[Answer] No. The IDF activity against the terrorists -- be it in Beirut or in the Al-Biqa' area or anywhere else -- was intended to implement and achieve the objectives as the Cabinet set and defined them.

[Question] What are the IDF's objectives in Beirut these days?

[Answer] To make sure that the terrorists leave Beirut in accordance with the conditions set by the Cabinet.

[Question] Or what is called military pressure?

[Answer] Military pressure is part of this entire constellation, aimed at persuading the terrorists to leave Beirut.

[Question] As chief of staff, do you think this military pressure is achieving its goal? Is it your impression that they are influenced by it?

[Answer] Certainly. Otherwise -- if there were no military pressure -- they would not have carried out any plan or demonstrated any desire to leave Beirut at all.

[Question] Whereas today you think that they are doing it and this is not a deception, as some believe?

[Answer] I do not believe this is deception, even though possibly there are some people among them who want to doublecross us. But it seems to me that now, these days -- that is a few days ago and in the next few days -- their intention to leave Beirut has been serious.

[Question] You have said that this military pressure is having its effect and impact on the terrorists, but as part of this pressure there have been all sorts of reports on all sorts of new means of warfare the IDF has been using, such as the vacuum bomb?

[Answer] This is interesting, and I deeply pity those people who seem to have nothing in their heads but a vacuum. There is no such thing as a vacuum bomb. Two days ago I saw in some newspaper, which undoubtedly highly values itself in Israel, an article asking how the IDF could, in the future, train its soldiers to use vacuum and cluster bombs?

In other words, here is a complete lie, totally divorced from reality, the child of stupid, foolish propaganda by someone whom I do not even know, and already building on it is a theory on training, asking what will become of the IDF and all sorts of similar things. I do not think there is a vacuum bomb in the whole world. Nor do I know what it is or what it could conceivably be. But anyone who comes to say that we are using special arms and found this bombastic name of vacuum bombs to name these arms is simply a fool, as stupid as anything; or he knows that he is lying and maliciously spreads this lie, relying on the ignorance of the public that will swallow any kind of such bait.

I can assure everyone -- although there may have been some people who were glad to hear that we have something so special, this vacuum bomb, with which we did goodness knows what, and I may perhaps disappoint those people -- there is no such thing. But the others who thought that we had produced something extraordinary, something out of this world, something exceptionally cruel, a weapon that is banned by the Geneva Convention -- let me reassure all those that this is also a lie and castles in Spain, serving the false propaganda of people who have an interest in spreading it either out of lack of knowledge or who viciously wish to incite the public against the army.

[Question] Can you say whether you think these publications come from Israel or abroad?

[Answer] There were publications both in Israel and outside it.

[Question] I am asking about the source of the report.

[Answer] I do not know what the source is.

[Question] Could it be that behind these stories lies the fact that the military pressure in west Beirut is so tight that unnatural explanations for it are being sought?

[Answer] How should I know? That is possible. It may be. We are being very precise in our activity in Beirut, but it may be that some people simply cannot fathom how we can be so accurate, and are thus saying: The Israelis must have something special. Since in the dictionary they found nothing more clever than the word "vacuum," they used it, hoping it would work.

[Question] You were saying that it is possible that our precision and accuracy may be incomprehensible, but with all this precision, civilians are still being hit in Lebanon. As chief of staff, do you take into account also these political-information calculations and considerations, or do you only think about the military aspects?

[Answer] I take into account these considerations as well. A very large part of the type and method of activity, as well as the abstention from undertaking certain actions, stems from the extra caution we have been showing in using our arms, knowing that civilians might be hurt.

[Question] But still we have been charged so many times with hitting civilians.

[Answer] That is true. Civilians are being hit despite everything; but I can say that if we had not taken into account all the things I mentioned before, ten times as many civilians would have been hit.

[Question] Mr Chief of Staff, you said that you are hoping -- or one can expect -- the terrorists to leave Beirut. Would you regard that as the end of the affair, the completion of the war and the possibility that the IDF would return to its former boundaries?

[Answer] I think the main, crucial part of the war will have ended with this, and deliberations will no doubt begin on the future of Lebanon and the foreign forces in Lebanon -- that is, ourselves and the Syrians and perhaps the remaining terrorists who will be left in Al-Biqa' and in north Lebanon, in Tripoli. A large part of the army will undoubtedly return home. In my opinion negotiations will be conducted on the future of Lebanon, on who is left and who will go, on a security belt, on assurances [bithonot], and on determining the way to supervise and make sure that a terrorist infrastructure like the one that existed before does not emerge once again.

[Question] Would it be possible to prevent their return?

[Answer] Yes, but it depends very much on the character of the administration in Lebanon, on whether or not there are international forces there, on whether the forces currently present in Lebanon will remain there and -- if so -- where, and -- if not -- who will replace them: the Lebanese Army or other elements? But in my opinion it is possible and essential to prevent the establishment of a new terrorist infrastructure in Lebanon, or else Lebanon will return to its former state.

[Question] By saying this is possible, do you mean to say that the IDF will be able to do so or will we have to rely on what you called international forces?

[Answer] This is debatable and negotiable.

[Question] Can you foresee the Syrians leaving Lebanon as a result of political negotiations, without the use of force?

[Answer] This is quite possible, certainly. It may be that as a result of negotiations and agreements [heskemin] the Syrians will leave Lebanon.

[Question] Do you think the ouster of the Syrians from Lebanon is a requirement for Israel's defense?

[Answer] The Syrians in Lebanon might bring about a situation where Lebanon once again constitutes an infrastructure for the terrorists. Such a thing would mean a return to our border. There has already been talk that after the terrorist problem, the question of the foreign forces in Lebanon will be discussed. I think the Syrians must leave Lebanon. This could be done through an agreement, not necessarily by force.

[Question] But is it one of Israel's conditions that the Syrians leave Lebanon?

[Answer] I would say that it is from a military standpoint. But from the political standpoint, it is the politicians who must decide. Militarily speaking, this is a condition.

[Question] Does this entail the possibility that the IDF will have to stay in Lebanon for many long months?

[Answer] If, after the Beirut affair is over, the deliberations on the future of the armies in Lebanon continue, the IDF will have to remain in Lebanon for their duration.

[Question] Is the IDF already prepared for this?

[Answer] Yes, definitely.

[Question] In various interviews with you and with other senior officers it was said that what has happened with the Syrians actually prevented a war at a later date. Does this amount to anything more than an assessment? Does it have any foundation in fact?

[Answer] That is true. The assessment is true, and one could also say that it is based on facts. When they said they were not prepared for this war, the Syrians meant that they had prepared for another war, but that we caught them ahead of the time they were aiming at. We know that all their preparations were for a war against us. But this applies not only to them; it also applies to the terrorists in Lebanon. In my opinion, this was coordinated between them, and they decided that at a time propitious to them fire would be opened in some fashion -- possibly by the terrorists with the Syrians shielding them, or in some other combination. But certainly we expected to encounter this.

[Question] Are you saying then that the Syrians took it that the terrorists' help would be of importance in terms of the fight against Israel?

[Answer] I think they believed the terrorists would start it and the Syrians would cover, not the other way around. In this case, when we would choose to hit the terrorists, the Syrians would face us with their full force and prevent this -- either by threat or by force -- and stop us from dealing with the terrorists. In this war in Lebanon we prevented this from occurring.

[Question] Would you say that in so doing we prevented the possibility of a war initiated by the Syrians in the foreseeable future, at least?

[Answer] Yes, the answer is affirmative.

[Question] Do you have an estimate as to how long at the minimum it will take them to reorganize?

[Answer] Are you asking about the Syrians? I have no estimate as to how long it will take them to recuperate from this war. They have a problem. Lebanon will no longer serve as their frontline. At the time, they said they entered Lebanon so that the eastern front would begin at Rosh Hanigra, stretching all the way down to Elat. This is in addition to the defeat they suffered on the battlefield, particularly in terms of the surface-to-air missiles.

As to how long it will take them to rehabilitate themselves, I cannot tell; and this is not something that involves a time estimate following the rules of our own logic, because their logic works differently. They may think that once the equipment destroyed in the war is replenished, they will be ready. But this time, since their defense -- or war -- deployment is founded on defense by surface-to-air missiles, and since this defense system was hit and found to be relatively ineffective compared to our capability, this will I think greatly affect their thinking as to when they will be prepared to face us once again in an open confrontation.

[Question] Do you think events in the Arab world itself and the war with the Syrians lessened the danger involved in an eastern front about which there was so much talk?

[Answer] No doubt. I think the division in the Arab world, as well as the Iraq-Iran war and events in Lebanon, are decreasing the possibility that this eastern front would consolidate and become a concrete, threatening one, even though each element separately in this front is getting stronger, building itself.

Jordan has been growing stronger to a stupendous extent, as has Saudi Arabia -- although it is farther away, one cannot ignore it as an element that could add weight to the eastern front. For the foreseeable future, Syria and Jordan will not cooperate; Iraq has been devastated by war.

One should recall at this juncture that when I said that the war between Iraq and Iran was good, people complained, saying that I am a warmonger or some other term. This war is beneficial to Israel as it decreases the threat to Israel and widens the gap and the division in the Arab world. Anyone who laments this certainly cannot be numbered among Israel's friends.

[Question] You said that their logic is not always the same as ours. Here there was a lot of talk that the threat to Damascus is very real -- being only 25 km from it -- and that this could affect them. Yet a situation may be created that, the great threat notwithstanding, the Syrians will decide to risk the entire stack of chips.

[Answer] I do not believe they have decided to gamble on their cards. Our proximity to Damascus did not constitute any objective. Or, to put it somewhat differently, there was no objective in this war to reach Damascus or threaten it. Rather, this is an outcome of the battles with the Syrians, and the Syrians are not staking everything because we did not place the bargaining chip of Damascus on the table.

[Question] Do you think the Syrians toyed with this business of accepting the terrorists for such a long time only in order to obtain greater financial support or to gain more support from other countries, or was there also the consideration that they do not want the terrorists in their midst?

[Answer] First of all, they did not want the terrorists. Maybe even now they do not want them, but great pressure was exerted on them -- I think particularly by Saudi Arabia -- and they complied. I would not say that they complied with glee and joy. Even now they do not want to receive them, even though they have agreed to let them come. As to what will happen to them in Syria -- that remains to be seen.

[Question] Will the fact that there will be terrorist concentrations in various countries not make things more difficult for us?

[Answer] No, I think it will make things easier for us.

[Question] How?

[Answer] In that they will be in smaller groups in many countries, with a dispersed leadership. To conduct a war against Israel in such a fashion and under these circumstances is very difficult.

[Question] But will this prevent terrorists acts from being perpetrated from all sorts of places?

[Answer] It will make things much more difficult. Carrying out terrorist acts in Europe or other countries does not require 10,000 terrorists in Beirut. It only takes a group of four people who have been well prepared, who have the proper means, with someone to plan and perpetrate the deed. I think terrorist acts in the world will continue.

[Question] Will the fact that they will be found in a number of concentration points not result in our having to concentrate on many places rather than one specific place?

[Answer] No, dispersal makes things easier for us.

[Question] There were people who argued, at a certain stage, that the fact that they are allegedly becoming more organized army will make things easier for us?

[Answer] All right, then suppose that were so: When they are in groups in many countries they will not become a regular army, in fact they will not become an army at all. This is better.

[Question] At the time you said that the problem has a military solution. Today, under the present circumstances, do you think the events that occurred supported your statement?

[Answer] Definitely. Were it not for the military moves, what sort of solution could have been accepted? Let someone stand up and speak.

[Question] In other words, militarily speaking, you cannot envision the possibility that the PLO will come back to life and again become the kind of thing it used to be?

[Answer] The PLO could come back to life in other countries, separately, but it may not. We shall see. It will take a long time.

BEGIN'S VISIT TO ZAIRE SAID POSTPONED AGAIN

TA170755 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Aug 82 p 1

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin will not be able to make his planned state visit to Zaire later this month, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned. Problems associated with the PLO evacuation from Beirut are keeping Begin tied down in Israel. He has suggested a date in mid-October for the visit.

The visit was postponed for the first time at the beginning of August, when President Mobutu Sese Seko was delayed in Switzerland where he was undergoing medical tests. Israel suggested a date between August 16 and 24, and got tentative agreement from the Zaire authorities.

But the prime minister's office has now decided that August 16-24 is not practicable.

Also in mid-October, Israel expects to put out feelers to five or six other African states concerning the restoration of diplomatic ties. This is on the assumption that the echoes of the Beirut siege will have died down by then, and negotiations will have started with Syria concerning the removal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Israel was in contact with those countries before Operation Peace for Galilee started on June 6, but the fighting gave the African leaders an excuse to call the contacts off.

The contacts had been established in Europe at top level.

AREA VILLAGE LEAGUE ESTABLISHED IN QABATIYAH AREA

TA142033 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2015 GMT 14 Aug 82

[Text] Janin, 14 Aug (ITIM) -- Another area village league was established over the weekend in the rural town of Qabatiyah in the Janin region. The league will be headed by a local dignitary (Muhammad Rujib). Officials of six other area village leagues already established in Judaea and Samaria took part in the ceremony, as did a civilian administration official. The new league has already received a large sum of money for restoring the road system in the Qabatiyah area.

Meanwhile, the ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria reports that on Friday night, unidentified people threw stones and empty bottles at the guard of the league's new office in Qabatiyah. The guard, Sulayman Salah, fired three shots from his 'Uzi sub-machine gun and chased the rioters away. Security forces investigating the incident detained three suspects.

PROMINENT TULKARM RESIDENT MURDERED 12 AUGUST

TA121911 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Aug 82

[Text] Mahmud al-'Umar, the owner of a cultural center and a land dealer, was murdered in Tulkarm at noon. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the murder is apparently linked to Al-'Umar's activity in establishing the area village league in the Tulkarm area.

PROGRAM FOR 20,000 GOLAN SETTLEMENTS CONFIRMED

TA131109 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Aug 82 p 5

[Report from the north by Shim'on Weiss]

[Excerpt] The Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich, this week officially confirmed program "20,000" for populating and cultivating the Golan and doubling its inhabitants within the next 5 years.

The officials of the Golan settlement committees and the Settlement Department, aided by the relevant government ministries, will begin in the next few days to prepare the practical plan for implementing program "20,000" including the funneling of the necessary funds.

INCREASED NUMBER OF DRUZE HOLD ID CARDS

TA170903 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0846 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] During the night a Syrian flag was raised in the village of Majdal Shams on the Golan Heights. The flag was flown from the roof of a local school. The security forces removed the flag and arrested one of the inhabitants for interrogation. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports in the meantime that the number of Golan Heights Druze who hold Israeli identification cards has increased. At the same time, there is still a group from the Druze sect that is calling for a continuation of the strike on the Golan Heights, the strike that came to an end about a month ago.

NEGEV DESERT OIL WELL BEGINS PRODUCTION

TA150623 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] At the Zug-Tamrur oil well, east of 'Arad, more than 400 barrels of oil a day were pumped over the weekend and it seems that it will be possible to begin on a trial basis to pump regularly 200 barrels or more a day. This has been learned by our correspondent Gadi Sukenik. The oil is being pumped from the lowest layer drilled, which is about 1,900 meters. Following the oil discovery, more drilling is expected in the area.

BRIEFS

NEW RELIGIOUS MINISTRY DEPARTMENT -- The Religious Affairs Ministry has set up a new department to coordinate its activities for non-Jews. The ministry has separate departments for Christians, Muslims and Druze. The new department, which is to be headed by Dr. Nisim Dana, until now the head of the Druze Department, will try to encourage inter-religious dialogue and to encourage visits to Israel by religious leaders. It will also try to work in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District, through the civil administration there. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Aug 82 p 2 TA]

APRIL-JUNE EXPORT STATISTICS -- Stability in Israel's trade deficit was registered in the second quarter of the year. The trade deficit amounted to \$790 million as compared with \$794 million for the same time last year. Net imports decreased by 3 percent and net exports decreased by 5 percent as compared with the same time last year. Net imports of merchandise in the second quarter of the year totaled \$1.965 billion, as compared with \$2.029 billion in the same quarter last year -- a decrease of 3 percent. [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Aug 82 p 7 TA]

LIBYAJABIR RECEIVES PDRY'S 'ALI 'ANTAR 15 AUGUST

LD161036 Tripoli JANA in English 0843 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Tripoli, Shawal 27, August 16 -- Jamahiriyah News Agency -- Brigadier Abu Bakr Junis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, met yesterday evening with Brigadier 'Ali 'Antar, member of the Politburo, first deputy premier and minister of local government of the Democratic Yemen Republic.

Al-Qadhdhafi Proposal Praised

LD162210 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Aug (JANA) -- Staff Brig Gen 'Ali 'Antar, member of the Political Bureau, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of local government of the PDRY, left Tripoli today. He was seen off by Brig Gen Abu Bakr Junis Jabir, commander in chief of the armed forces.

Before his departure from the Jamahiriyah, Staff Brig Gen 'Ali 'Antar made a statement to a JANA correspondent, in which he praised the proposal made by the brother leader of the revolution to Arab kings and presidents for the dispatch of 10 military divisions to Syria, supported by aircraft squadrons, to expel the enemy. He said this proposal has our great appreciation and deserves every welcome from us because it stems from the pan-Arab duty of the Great 1 September Revolution toward the fateful issues of our Arab nation and the challenges imposed on it. He added that it is our duty to utilize all our resources and potential for unified Arab action directed against the enemy and those who are backing it with tools of destruction for the annihilation of both the Palestinian and the Lebanese people and for the dispersal of thousands of our people in steadfast Beirut.

In his statement, he underlined the fact that by presenting this pan-Arab initiative, the Jamahiriyah constantly is asserting its eagerness for fighting in solidarity and for strengthening the anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist and antireaction struggle to firmly establish the Arab right to retrieve the usurped territories and to establish the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the building of an independent state under PLO leadership. He said: I would like to confirm the PDRY's full readiness for effective participation in every joint action to confront Zionist aggression, which is backed by America, and to foil it.

Speaking about his visit to the Jamahiriyah, he pointed out that the visit has produced positive results. I have conveyed to Brother Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi a message from the presidents of the two Yemens and I have told him that the PDRY welcomes the proposal he has presented for the expulsion of the Zionist enemy and for foiling its capitulatory schemes and the aggressive designs the U.S. administration is concocting against the Arab nation.

MOROCCOOFFICIALS MEET WITH SOVIET PARLIAMENTARIANS

LD131654 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Aug 82

[Text] The Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Babken Sarkisov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, continued its contacts with Moroccan officials today within the framework of their current visit to Morocco.

The delegation was received this morning by Prime Minister Maati Bouabid. Ahmed Belhaj, minister in charge of relations with Parliament, attended the meeting. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations. They reaffirmed the need to bolster these relations in the interests of both countries. The Soviet parliamentary delegation was received at noon today by Dr Abdelwahad Belkeziz, minister of information, youth and sports. During this meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and the phases of their current development. The talks concentrated on cooperation in information and the need to use it to bring the peoples of both countries closer.

The Soviet parliamentary delegation also met with Mohamed El Ansar, minister of posts and telecommunications, who represented the minister of state in charge of cooperation. During the meeting, held at the Ministry of State for Cooperation, the two sides discussed prospects for cooperation between Morocco and the Soviet Union and studied the means of developing various aspects of this cooperation.

Deputy Speaker of the Moroccan Parliament Driss Abdou Marrak Chi accompanied the Soviet parliamentary delegation during these visits.

Delegation Departs 14 August

LD161318 Rabat MAP in English 1223 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Casablanca, Aug 16 (MAP) -- The Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Mr Babken Sarkisov, vice-chairman of the Supreme Soviet, left here Saturday after a work visit to Morocco.

Before departure, Mr Sarkisov recalled the main goal of the visit and said it was the exchange of views between the two countries on the situation currently prevailing in the Middle East. We have, said Mr Sarkisov, exposed our stance vis a vis the Middle East events and we have condemned the barbarous acts perpetrated against the Arab peoples.

GUINEAN PRIME MINISTER ENDS VISIT 16 AUGUST

LD161321 Rabat MAP in English 1250 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Casablanca, Aug 16 (MAP) -- Guinean Premier Dr Lansana Beavogui left here Monday following a few days' visit to Morocco. During his stay in the kingdom, Dr Beavogui was received by Premier Maati Bouabid. The talks dealt with questions of common interest, the situation in the Middle East and the aborted Tripoli summit of the Organization of African Unity.

TUNISIA

COMMITTEE PREPARES TO RECEIVE 1,000 PALESTINIANS

LD161404 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Tunis, 16 Aug (TAP) -- The Tunisian committee charged with looking into ways to ensure adequate conditions for the welcoming and stay of the Palestinian mujahidin, in implementation of the decision of the head of state to receive the first battalion of the brave Palestinian fighters, has held a meeting. It has been learned from an authorized source that this committee, chaired by Interior Minister Driss Guiga, has been particularly busy ironing out the logistics pertaining to the welcoming and stay of the Palestinian mujahidin and to their security and health care. According to the same source, about 1,000 Palestinian Mujahidin are expected to come to Tunisia.

ETHIOPIAELF OFFICE WARNS AGAINST ETHIOPIAN CAMPAIGN

GF151627 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 15 Aug 82 p 2

[Text] The office of the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] in Kuwait yesterday issued a statement warning that Ethiopia is preparing for an all-out military campaign to liquidate the Eritrean revolution, taking advantage of world public opinion, which is pre-occupied with the treacherous war Israel has been waging, with aid from Washington, against the Arab Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, for more than 2 months.

The statement called on fraternal and friendly countries, particularly Arab countries, to extend material and political aid to the Eritrean revolution before it is too late.

The statement called on world public opinion to stop the massacre for which the Ethiopian regime is preparing in order to avoid a reproduction of the Lebanese plight in Eritrea. It also affirmed that the Eritrean revolution is capable of countering and foiling the Ethiopian plot, regardless of the incompatability on all sides, if the revolution receives support from Arab brothers. The statement noted that Eritrean revolution delegations have been visiting fraternal and friendly countries to acquaint officials in these countries with latest developments in the revolution.

ELF called on Arab and Islamic countries to save what can be saved in Lebanon; it also expressed the conviction that any Arab move within a unified strategy will have a direct influence on the war taking place in Lebanon, regardless of the size of the international conspiracy.

KENYANAIROBI UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING DEAN ARRESTED

AB161747 Paris AFP in English 1739 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Nairobi, Aug 15 (AFP) -- The dean of Nairobi University engineering faculty, Alfred Otieno Osanya, was arrested yesterday, university sources said here today.

A reliable source said that Joseph Otieno Malo, a colleague of Mr. Osanya who was arrested on Friday, was released today.

Five university lecturers have been detained in the past two months under government policy aiming to tighten control of the university. Two student leaders were arrested during the unsuccessful August 1 coup. Some Nairobi University students joined the air force rebels when they launched the coup attempt and weapons were found on the university campus.

NEWSPAPER CALLS FOR OPEN TRIAL OF REBELS

EA161230 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 16 Aug 82 p 6

[Editorial: "The Whole Truth Must Come Out"]

[Text] The suggestion by Land, Settlement and Physical Planning Minister G.G. Kariuki that the trial of the Kenya Air Force rebels involved in the recent coup attempt should be open to the public is one of the most bold and refreshing statements to come out of a government minister since the events of August 1.

Making the trial public would most likely eliminate the possibility or suspicions of any sort of coverup or attempts at only half-hearted investigations and assure the people of this country that not only those who took part in the coup attempt, but also those who might have been involved in financing and masterminding it, will be unearthed and given the punishment they deserve. The call by Mr Kariuki should be welcomed both by the government and the public. It is good for all of us.

The events of August 1 have created serious misgivings in the minds of many wananchi about the integrity of their national security. Such misgivings can only be removed if wananchi are taken into the confidence of the government's investigative machinery and if all the facts are laid bare to enable them to judge for themselves.

We are well aware that it is not always advisable for trials involving matters of state security to be made open to members of the public. However, such an argument can only be valid, in our opinion, if the public was not, in the first place, privy to the state of insecurity the cause of which is being investigated. In the case of the abortive coup, wananchi were made publicly and rudely aware of a breakdown in our national security on a massive scale. Their confidence can now only be fully restored by a public trial of the rebels and those behind them, if any.

One of the most worrying aspects of the coup attempt is the fact that it involved not just one, but all the country's major air force bases -- Embakasi, Eastleigh and Nanyuki -- giving rise to fears that there was more to it than just the action of a misguided few acting on the spur of the moment and seeking the support of their other colleagues only at the last minute.

Mr Kariuki, for example, made the startling revelation that some of the rebels were seen driving in a convoy all the way from Nanyuki to Nairobi -- a distance of 120 miles -- on the afternoon of the day before the coup attempt. It is perhaps not unreasonable to assume that the rebels were also moving arms and ammunition in preparation for the coup attempt later that night.

Other leaders have talked of other people being involved in the coup attempt. During the loyalty demonstrations in Nairobi last Wednesday, nominated MP Mulu Mutisya, for example, appealed to the Cabinet to find out who were behind the attempted coup. There were some big people who were behind it, for no child can do something without the father's knowledge, he said.

Even more startling, perhaps, is the fact that the coup attempt was conceived and executed apparently without the knowledge of at least one or two of those charged with the task of ensuring the country's security.

It is indeed tragic to come to the conclusion that the arrangements for the ill-fated coup attempt were made without the knowledge of at least some of those charged with the operation of the country's intelligence network. If that is true, it is a very serious failure on the part of our intelligence services.

Be that as it may, we believe that if the truth is to be laid bare, any suspected individuals, however senior or influential, should be excluded from the exercise of determining who may have been behind the coup attempt, since such individuals could attempt to cover up or sabotage the investigations.

Something went drastically wrong with the body politic on August 1. It should not be swept under the carpet. It must be brought out into the open. Only then can we begin to do something about it to make sure it does not happen again.

SEYCHELLESARMY REBELS SEIZE STATE RADIO STATION

OW171016 Hong Kong AFP in English 1001 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Excerpts] Nairobi, Aug 17 (AFP) -- Rebels from the Seychelles Army seized control of the state radio station during the night and are calling for the resignation of certain ministers and military leaders.

But the rebels pledged their loyalty to Socialist President France Albert Rene who was temporarily outside Victoria, the capital.

The coup attempt is the fourth to wrack the island chain in the heart of the Indian Ocean since independence in 1976.

President Rene was visiting the Amirante Islands, about 400 kms (250 miles) west of the picturesque colonial-style capital, during the rebellion by members of the Seychelles People's Defence Force. The rebels, speaking in Creole, pledged their loyalty to "Papa" (President) Rene.

While roadblocks were being set up in Victoria, the rebels imposed a curfew over the main island of Mahe.

An eyewitness contacted by telephone said gunshots were fired in the city and military vehicles swept through the streets. International telephone communications from the islands were cut off, as the military rebels took over the cable and wireless offices, although it was still possible to speak to Seychelles residents by calling from abroad.

The identity of the rebels and their political leanings were still unknown.

Witnesses said the rebellion was launched from the military camp of Union Vale and was a revolt by non-commissioned officers. Many tourists were caught up in today's coup in the Seychelles, once known as an "island paradise."

The Seychelles authorities, shaken by last year's abortive coup, boosted military equipment, with the help of several foreign governments, and increased army personnel to more than 500. The French and Soviet Navies immediately dispatched warships to the port of Victoria, and the French Socialist government pledged greater military cooperation with the Seychelles, sending coastal patrol planes, transport planes and military advisers on short visits.

There were no foreign ships in Victoria when today's rebellion began, and two patrol boats were sent out to guard the harbour entrance.

'Many' Hostages Held

AB171108 Paris AFP in English 1044 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Text] Nairobi, Aug 17 (AFP) -- The army mutineers who seized the Seychellois radio early today have announced they are holding "many" hostages and would kill them if troops loyal to President Albert Rene intervened.

As mortar firing was heard in Victoria, the capital, the rebels announced over the radio which they seized at 2 AM (2200 GMT, Monday) that their hostages included women news announcers and children. They said they would kill them all and blow up the radio station as well as the city's petrol stations if there was an attack.

The radio is broadcasting every 10 minutes or so, according to a Victoria resident contacted from here by telephone.

The rebels are demanding that President Rene should work out a settlement. He is at present visiting a group of islands 400 kms (250 miles) away.

'Vital Installations Mined'

MB171059 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Excerpt] In a broadcast on the [Seychelles] radio station, the soldiers said they had imposed a 24-hour curfew. Roadblocks have apparently been set up to enforce the curfew.

One broadcast said all public and vital installations as well as the radio stations had been mined.

It said if any soldiers, be they local or foreign, tried to foil the coup, the buildings would be blown up right away.

Tourists have been confined to hotels.

SOMALIA

DEFENSE MINISTER VIEWS CONFLICT WITH ETHIOPIA

GF142015 Doha AR-RAYAH in Arabic 14 Aug 82 p 3

[Sayyid Ahmad Khalifah dispatch from Mogadishu, including interview with First Vice President and Defense Minister Lt Gen Mohammed Ali Samantar — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] I asked Lt Gen Mohammed Ali Samantar about this surprise war both in terms of time and place. Why now, and why here in particular?

[Answer] It appears the Ethiopians want to surprise us with an all-out war following Mengistu's deceptive talk last month on peace and neighborliness. They also talked about a previous campaign against the Eritreans following the failure of their red star campaign. We believe what has now been started is an all-out war between us and the Ethiopians. There are several motives for this war, the most important of which is the achievement of the old dream to cut the road between the north and the south and then storm the northern capital, (Hirgisa), and exercise pressure on us from there so that we declare a total political backdown on our support for the right of the people of western Somalia to self-determination.

[Question] What is the strategic importance of the two areas where the fighting is now taking place?

[Answer] With regard to Balumbale, which is 20 km from the border, its importance lies in its being close to very strategic heights. Whoever controls these heights can control the north-south road. They are trying to reach these heights. With regard to Goldogob, which is second in importance to (Galkabu), which is densely populated and 8 km from the other city, the Ethiopians want it to advance the supply line for their forces so that they can penetrate deep into our lines.

[Question] Has there been any development in the traditional weapons used by the Ethiopians or by you?

[Answer] There has been no development in the conventional sense, except for the quality, and distance-measuring apparatus [jihaz qiyas an-naw' wal-masfat] the Soviet Union supplies to the Ethiopians, in addition to the MiG-23's. On our side, there has been nothing new with regard to the quality of weapons.

[Question] With all the talk about agreements, aid and the exchange of visits, haven't you received U.S. weapons?

[Answer] No weapons from the United States.

[Question] The Ethiopians say the war is between Somali insurgents and the Somali Government. Of course, we have seen two warring armies -- there are Ethiopian tanks and aircraft and more than 30,000 soldiers. What is your view and what is the truth about the presence of Somalis among the Ethiopian forces?

[Answer] Your testimony suffices. As for the presence of members of the Somali opposition in the battlefield -- there is no such presence. About 100 members of the Somali opposition were ahead of the Ethiopian forces in their invasion of Balumbale and gave them reconnaissance information since they know the roads. The forces that attacked this small village total 15,000 soldiers. A great number attacked other areas.

[Question] Is Soviet participation in military operations continual, as is always the case?

[Answer] Soviet pilots fly the MiG-23's; they are never flown by Ethiopians. The Ethiopians only have the ability to fly the MiG-21's. The presence of Soviet or Cuban pilots is evidenced by the fact that M-28 helicopters follow all sorties by the MiG's to pick up any pilot whose aircraft may be shot down so he will not be discovered.

[Question] Are there any military operations by the Western Somalia Liberation Front [WSLF] that can be used as a justification for this aggression?

[Answer] There have been no recent battles between the Ethiopians and the WSLF. The WSLF exists, of course, and we recognize it. However, there have been no recent WSLF military operations.

[Question] Do you believe Addis Ababa has wagered on the internal situation in Somalia following the events in northern Somalia and the subsequent arrest of seven politicians?

[Answer] This may be one factor in their calculations. However, they are mistaken, for in our judgment, the home front in Somalia is now more cohesive than ever. Events in the north have ended with a serious dialogue with reasonable people in the north whose view was that the problems were exported to the northern region by some officials themselves, and they mean the seven officials who were arrested. The Ethiopians also know that despite internal differences, the Somalis always unite in defending their homeland. The home front today is stronger than at any time in the past. There are more volunteers from the north than from any other Somali area.

[Question] It is being said that Somali military personnel recently sought refuge in Ethiopia. Is this true?

[Answer] No Somali military personnel have surrendered to the Ethiopians. They are talking about individuals who were part of the Somali forces and left as a result of Libyan financial inducements. These are very few. We, and also Sudan, daily receive scores of soldiers, civilians and politicians who have fled Ethiopia.

[Question] The Somalia Air Force is less effective in the fighting than the Ethiopian Air Force. What is the reason for this?

[Answer] The Ethiopians have more aircraft. Ever since our differences with the Soviet Union, we have not received any new aircraft -- or any other weapons, of course. We are still relying on the MiG-17. This does not mean that we do not use our air force when necessary. There are, of course, problems. The air force, as you know, is used in attack and we are not attacking the Ethiopians. They are attacking us with their air force and other forces. Moreover, when we want to attack Ethiopian targets, we face a difficult situation because the population in western Somalia is Somali and our air force cannot strike at their villages, the way Ethiopia does when attacking us. The problem then is, what we call militarily the enemy's depth, demographically a Somali depth.

[Question] Some people talk about the possibility of holding a dialogue of initiating a reconciliation with members of the opposition whose presence in Ethiopia and elsewhere is exploited by Ethiopia and others. How far can such a dialogue contribute toward unifying the Somali ranks?

[Answer] I will say something important to you: Most of those Somalis who have dealt with Ethiopia act from narrow tribal concepts or are agents of the Soviet Union or are trading in the national cause. How can one have a dialogue with such people? Imagine an Arab who opposes the regime in his country from Tel Aviv. How can the people accept a dialogue with him? National dialogue in any developing country must continue. However, there is a great difference between a national dialogue and succumbing to the conditions of a traitor and an agent who seeks to gain advantage for one tribal group over another in his country.

[Question] One last question. Have the U.S. forces arrived at the bases they have been given in Berbera?

[Answer] First of all, we have not granted the Americans bases in Berbera or anywhere else. We have always said that we have granted the United States naval facilities in our territory for well-known reasons, the most important of which is to preserve the international balance of forces. You can go from here to Berbera or to any Somali area to verify what I am saying.

TANZANIA

1 MILLION FACE FAMINE IN ARUSHA REGION

EAL70120 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Excerpts] Reports from Dar es Salaam say that more than 1 million people from Tanzania's Arusha region face possible famine this year, according to the official news agency SHIHATA. As a result, people have been asked to use what food there is with extreme care so that supplies can last until next harvest.

The agency, quoting Prime Minister Cleopa Msuya, said the shortage has been brought about by a prolonged drought in the region in the last few years. Mr Msuya said about 3,000 tons of grain would be required in the region over the next 12 months to offset the food deficit.

UGANDAOBOTE ADDRESSES MILITARY, URGES LOYALTY

EA132004 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Aug 82

[Excerpt] Officers and men of the Uganda defense forces have been called upon to live up to the oath they took to defend the sovereignty of Uganda, the Constitution, and to comply with Armed Forces Act. The call was made by the president, Dr Milton Obote, who is also the commander in chief of the defense forces, when he was addressing senior officers at the International Conference Center, where they have been holding a 3-day meeting.

Mr Obote emphasized the need to preserve peace as the prerequisite to (?their oath) and the rebuilding of Uganda, adding that it is the responsibility of everybody to sweat and toil in order to have peace and prosperity. The president thanked the officers and men of the defense forces for the dedication they have shown in their efforts to bring about peace. In that regard, he called on the officers and on Ugandans as a whole to use their ability to the maximum, irrespective of human limitations, in building a new Uganda.

Mr Obote assured the officers that the government is doing its best to avail them with the facilities they need in order to execute their duties more efficiently. He added that the present economic difficulties [words indistinct] and would not be a permanent way of life for Ugandans. He stressed that with peace and hard work the people of Uganda will have prosperity.

The president urged the officers on their part to ensure that officers and NCO's under their command display exemplary conduct and discipline to the men in their units. Officers and men in every unit, the president added, are dutybound to treat civilians with dignity and respect.

The officers pledged their loyalty to the government and assured the president that they would fight banditry in all forms in order to consolidate peace in Uganda.

Before inviting the president to address the officers, the vice president and minister of defense, Mr Paulo Muwanga, paid tribute to Uganda defense forces for the tremendous work they had done in curbing banditry.

CONGOPRESIDENT, RWANDA'S HABYARIMANA DISCUSS TIES

EAL61710 Kigali Domestic Service in French 1115 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Excerpts] Continuing his 4-day official visit to the People's Republic of the Congo, Maj Gen Juvenal Habyarimana, president of the republic and president-founder of the National Revolutionary Movement for Development, accompanied by Congolese Foreign Minister Pierre Nze, left this morning for the oil-producing town of Pointe Noire on the Atlantic coast, the economic capital of the Congo. Presidents Denis Sassou-Nguesso and Juvenal Habyarimana yesterday afternoon chaired the opening session of talks between experts from our two countries. The talks are centered on bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them. The two delegations are examining problems related to trade, transportation and communications. President Juvenal Habyarimana will end his visit to the Congo tomorrow and is expected to return to Kigali on the same day.

ZAIREMOBUTU COMMENTS ON OAU, AL-QADHDHAFI REMARKS

AB161016 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Excerpts] Mobutu Sese Seko, founding chairman of the party and president of the republic, yesterday presided over the closing session of the second extraordinary session of the Central Committee at Party House in Nsele.

[Begin Mobutu recording] If in Zaire, the political year appears to be already successful, we cannot, unfortunately, say the same for Africa. You all know that the main political event on our continent this year was the holding of the 19th OAU summit in Tripoli. Zaire is a cofounder of our pan-African organization. The African cause has never been denied. We cannot remain indifferent to the problems facing our joint organization, however complex they may be. Everything now seems to revolve around the single question of the admission of the so-called SDAR into the OAU, yet Africa is facing many more urgent problems such as the liberation of Namibia and all of southern Africa, the elimination of apartheid, the ever dramatic deterioration of terms of trade, and economic development in general. Compared with these real preoccupations, the SDAR issue is a false problem. The OAU is an organization that groups states. The SDAR is not a state. It is even abnormal and disturbing to see that this republic, which calls itself Arab, is neither a member of the Arab League nor any other Arab organization. We cannot, therefore, tolerate that it should obstinately choose the pan-African organization to deliberately create disunity among its members and to sow confusion.

Whatever the cause may be, Zaire continues to reaffirm its determination to contribute in every way toward safeguarding African unity and will make every effort so that our pan-African organization survives the deadlock that now seems to be stifling it.

We are not and never have been against holding an OAU summit in Tripoli for the simple reason that in Nairobi in 1981, Zaire joined other countries to freely choose Tripoli as the venue for the 19th summit meeting. The Zairian delegation was even ready to go to Tripoli, but I had to stop the mission following the spiteful and discourteous remarks made by the leader of the host country against his absent colleagues. He as much as called them corrupt, something which is unacceptable. Zaire values its dignity and for this reason our delegation was not present in Tripoli. However, the OAU should be saved. We are ready to make our contribution to and join our efforts with any initiative that could lead to a normal meeting of heads of state and government in Tripoli. [end recording]

GAMBIAJAWARA ACCEPTS INTERIOR MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

AB150858 Paris AFP in French 0734 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] Banjul, 15 Aug (AFP) -- Gambian Interior Minister Abdoulie M'boob has tendered his resignation to President Jawara, who accepted it "with regrets," it was announced in Banjul on Saturday.

M'boob was replaced by Alieu Badji, former Gambian ambassador to Saudi Arabia. M'boob was appointed interior minister last September after leading forces against the authors of the coup attempt of 30 July 1981.

There was no official reason for the resignation. However, observers in Banjul note that M'boob had been subpoenaed as witness in the trial of those involved in the coup attempt -- including the opposition leader, Sherif Dibba -- after two members of the Field Force (the Gambian Armed Forces) said they had informed him of the preparations for the coup. M'boob categorically rejected the allegations. The statements of the two Field Force members tallied with those of Mass Diara, police inspector general and former deputy to Mbip, and those of Keba Ly, MP of the ruling People's Progressive Party.

MALICOOPERATION TALKS WITH IRAQ BEGIN 13 AUGUST

AB131648 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 13 Aug 82

[Excerpt] The meeting of the first session of the Malian-Iraqi joint commission began this morning at the headquarters of the Malian Development Bank (BDM), under the joint chairmanship of Mocktar Diallo, permanent secretary for international cooperation, representing the minister for foreign affairs and international cooperation, and Mr (Jawad al Kajari), Iraqi director for economic affairs and leader of the Iraqi delegation.

NIGERDIALLO ON UPCOMING ISLAMIC CONFERENCE MEETING

NC162028 Paris AFP in English 2013 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Niamey, Aug 16 (AFP) -- The upcoming Islamic Conference Organisation foreign ministers' meeting should provide an opportunity for Moslem states to strengthen ties and "pick up the Israeli challenge," Niger's Foreign Minister Daouda Diallo said here today.

"The Islamic community must not spare any efforts to show the Palestinians that they are not alone," he said.

Mr Diallo, who will chair the five-day conference opening on Sunday, noted it will be the first time Arab and Islamic states have met since the Israeli offensive in Lebanon began.

On the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, Mr Diallo said [words indistinct] the conference would examine the conclusions of an ICO conciliation committee "and that it will be possible to take a step closer to peace." Praising Algeria's mediation bid in the conflict, Mr Diallo said he hoped the Algerians would "join their efforts to ours."

He said that next week's meeting would focus on political, economic and cultural issues, and that Niger was particularly concerned to improve cooperation between Moslem countries "in all areas."

The foreign minister said that about 30 countries out of a total membership of 42 had announced they will participate in the conference, which is preceded by a two-day preparatory meeting of experts.

Conference President

WA170930 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Aug 82 p 12

[Text] AD-DUSTUR sources have reported that Ben Bella is now the candidate to replace Habib Chatti, who is expected to step down for health reasons as head of the Islamic conference. The reception of former President Ben Bella by [Tunisian] President Bourguiba at Monastir Palace confirms this report.

NIGERIA

POLICE OFFICIAL EXPLAINS 2-WEEK BAN ON MEETINGS

AB161100 Lagos NAN in English 1044 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Lagos, Aug 16 (NAN) -- The ban on public processions and assemblies in the next 14 days, which some commissioners of police announced recently, is not nation-wide.

In an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) today, the police public relations officer for the Lagos police command, said that the ban which was announced in Lagos, Oyo and Ondo states, was imposed at the discretion of the commissioners of police in the affected areas. He said that each commissioner of police would decide to impose a ban when there is a genuine fear of a breach of the peace in his state.

According to the Lagos police command, the ban on public processions and assemblies was part of the efforts by the police to ensure adequate security during the period of the registration of voters. The command also said that it would deal severely with any person or persons found disrupting the exercise in any form.

The exercise, which begins throughout the federation today, is expected to last two weeks.

UPN SUPPORTERS WITH REGISTRATION BOOKS ARRESTED

AB161905 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] In Kaduna, supporters of the Unity Party of Nigeria [UPN] have been found in possession of over 500 registration agent record books. Reliable sources disclosed that similar books were also recovered from the supporters in all the former 14 local government areas of the state. The state deputy commissioner of police has confirmed the story and the subsequent arrest of those involved.

Also commenting, Representative Diaro Maigana of the State Assembly urged the general public to report anybody involved in such malpractices. On the general registration which began today, the response was reported to be very discouraging in Kaduna, Kano and Bauchi states.

SENEGAL

UN SEMINAR ON PALESTINE CONCLUDES 13 AUGUST

AB141130 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 13 Aug 82

[Text] At the Dakar trade fair center this afternoon, Moustapha Niasse, minister of state for foreign affairs, reiterated Senegal's position on the Middle East and pledged the commitment of President Abdou Diouf, the Senegalese Government and people to contributing to the triumph of the just cause of the Palestinian people.

Niasse, who was addressing the closing session of the seventh UN seminar on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, which opened in our capital on Monday, stressed that the struggle of the Palestinian people is that of all Third World countries. The struggle, he said, is one of the most obvious actions of those people against all forms of colonization, exploitation and domination. The situation in the Middle East is a direct threat to world peace, detente and security, the minister said. This is why President Abdou Diouf, the Senegalese people and their government welcomed the holding of this seminar in Dakar as a contribution to the efforts toward a solution to the various forms of injustices being inflicted on the Palestinian people.

Earlier, (Massal Mactar Hieu), Senegalese ambassador to the United Nations and chairman of the UN Commission for the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, indicated that during their deliberations the seminar participants drew inspiration from the wise and realistic recommendations made on behalf of President Abdou Diouf by the foreign minister at the opening session. The seminar was aimed at drawing the attention of the international community to the importance of the Middle East crisis and to provide that the creation of a Palestinian state is a factor toward achieving peace, mutual understanding, fruitful cooperation and restored brotherhood among all states of the region, and in seeing that the ideals of peace and justice prevail over brutality.

At the end of their deliberations, the UN seminar participants made a number of recommendations, suggesting the setting up, within the framework of the Commission for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, of a working group comprising experts and members of the commission. The group will examine the usefulness and possibility of establishing a war crimes tribunal to investigate the manner in which Israel has been conducting its hostilities with regard to international war regulations and laws. They also called on the commission to plead with the UN secretary general to request that Israel immediately submit a full and comprehensive list of all people detained following the invasion of Lebanon and to allow the International Red Cross Committee to freely visit all detention places. They also demand that all protection requirements as governed by the third and fourth Geneva conventions of 1949 be accorded to PLO combatants. The seminar further suggested that information on the ties, similarities and even the identity between Zionism and apartheid be widely spread, particularly in Africa, the Caribbean and among the Afro-American community in the United States. To this effect, special fund should be created and contributions sought from nongovernmental organizations.

LE SOLEIL CALLS FOR KODJO OAU RESIGNATION

AB161306 Paris AFP in English 1223 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Dakar, Aug 16 (AFP) -- The daily LE SOLEIL newspaper, close to the Senegalese Government, today called for the resignation of Organization of African Unity Secretary-General Edem Kodjo over his decision to admit the disputed Saharan state to the OAU.

It said that Togolese-born Mr Kodjo "ought at least to have the courage to leave his post immediately and of his own accord," rather than "carry about his pitiful carcass" as if he were the victim of the deep split in the organization which followed the state's admission.

The editorial was responding to a statement by the secretary-general that he could not "leave a sinking ship."

It said that Mr Kodjo's decision to admit the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) to the OAU was an "abuse," a "gaffe" and a "stupidity," and described him as the "murderer" of the pan-African organization, which was unable to hold its annual summit earlier this month for lack of quorum.

"The murderer of the OAU forgets that it is he, exceeding his powers, who ordered the suicidal sabotage, LE SOLEIL said.

TOGO

CHAD'S HABRE DESCRIBES VISIT, DEPARTS 16 AUG

AB170946 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Excerpts] Hissein Habre, chairman of the Council of State and president of the Republic of Chad, left Lome this morning at the end of a friendly visit. He was seen off at Lome-Tokoin Airport by Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally RPT, and president of the republic.

Habre expressed his gratitude to President Eyadema and the Togolese people for the constant interest they have in the Chadian crisis. He also said he held consultations with the founding chairman of the RPT on African issues.

[Begin recording] I am here in Lome on a friendly and fraternal visit with my brother, founding chairman Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, and the brotherly Togolese people. This is quite normal and I must say, on my part, that I attach great importance to this visit for several reasons. The first is that my brother, General Eyadema, has always had and still has a great interest in the Chadian people's crisis. I would say he has made this problem his own. He has always shared and continues to share the sufferings and calamities of the Chadian people and he has always strived and keeps on striving to do all in his power so that this people and this country may regain peace and stability. Everybody knows the efforts made by President Eyadema in this respect. And in so doing, we know the risks he ran at the height of the war in 1980 by coming to Ndjamena, crossing the Chari river the way our ancestors did in their time -- by canoe, where the waters spare no one. His efforts and sacrifices for the Chadian cause and also the African cause are excellent.

In coming here, therefore, I bear testimony to the gratitude that I have the duty to convey to President Eyadema. I also seize this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Togolese people and the sister Republic of Togo. This is one of the reasons I am here in Togo. I have just talked about the efforts President Eyadema has been making to help solve the Chadian problem as well as African problems in general. It was therefore, quite normal that I should hold discussions with my brother, President Eyadema. [end recording]

ANGOLACPSU DELEGATION RETURNS FROM PROVINCES

AB161240 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] The delegation of the Soviet Communist Party yesterday returned to Luanda after its visit to the Angolan provinces of the Cuanza Norte and Malanje. The delegation, which was accompanied to the provinces by Comrade Bernardo de Souza, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, visited the Masangano local historical center, the Cambamba hydroelectric power station, as well as the agriculture school of Kilombe. In Malanje, the Soviet delegation visited the Nzinga Mbande cotton industry. It also visited the Nganga solar school for the formation cadres. The delegation of the Soviet Communist Party is today expected to return home.

PORTUGUESE SECRETARY OF STATE ARRIVES 16 AUG

LD162150 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2000 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Portuguese Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs Paulo Marques today arrived in Luanda with a message from Prime Minister Pinto Balsemao to Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. The Foreign Affairs Ministry has confirmed to ANOP that a message has been sent but would not disclose its contents. The message is thought to be connected with the recent reports of an alleged plot hatched in Portugal against the People's Republic of Angola.

The Angolan news agency ANGOP has reported the arrival of the Portuguese secretary of state but says that the message he carries is from President Ramalho Eanes.

SOUTH AFRICAR. BOTHA SAYS RSA 'WILL NOT BE DICTATED TO'

MB170640 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 17 Aug 82

[Excerpt] The minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha, says although it is important for South Africa to have good relations with the United States, the country will not be dictated to from abroad on how to formulate its internal policies.

Interviewed on television, Mr Botha said he had not gained the impression that the United States wanted to prescribe to South Africa. American leaders hope that solutions would be initiated and applied by South African leaders themselves.

R. BOTHA ON BORDER ATTACK BY LESOTHO GROUP

LD151118 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Aug 82

[Text] The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, says South Africa is still waiting for a reply from neighboring Lesotho about a border attack in which members of a Lesotho paramilitary unit wounded workers on a South African farm.

Mr Botha was responding to accusations made in Maseru yesterday at the funeral of the assassinated Lesotho minister of works, Mr Jobo Rampeta, that the opposition Basutoland Congress Party was accepting aid from South Africa. Mr Botha said the Lesotho Government regularly made these kinds of accusations to divert attention from the precarious conditions in Lesotho and from border violations carried out by Lesotho.

ZIMBABWEZAPU ASKS MEETING WITH ZANU 'TO DEFUSE TENSION'

CA161258 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Zimbabwe's opposition ZAPU Party, recently a target of fierce government attacks, has publicly called for a meeting with the ruling ZANU Party to defuse tension in the country. The call followed an emergency meeting of the party's Central Committee in Harare yesterday (?to discuss) the talks 2 weeks ago between ZAPU leader Joshua Nkomo and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe.

Mr Nkomo later told reporters at his Harare residence that they cannot look to anybody else to solve their problems but they have got to do that themselves. A statement released by the ZAPU Central Committee said Zimbabwe's policy and unity was threatened by tension between ZAPU and ZANU and by lawlessness, but it was up to the government to provide leadership.

The government has repeatedly accused ZAPU of fomenting violence which has claimed at least 30 lives, including those of three British tourists during the past 5 months. The party has denied any involvement.

Yesterday's statement from ZAPU maintained the conciliatory tone set by Mr Nkomo in [word indistinct] the meeting on 2 August with Mr Mugabe.